Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, October 19, 2017 | Read by more than 56,000 people | Price when sold 70p

Council vehicle aims to keep pupils safe outside gates

80 FINED AS SPY CAR HITS SCHOOLS

Report By Clare Butler

EIGHTY fines have been handed out in just one month since a school parking spy car hit the streets in Dudley borough.

The car is fitted with mobile CCTV and has just completed its first month full service keeping children safer outside schools.

It is designed to deter people from parking on yellow 'keep-clear' zigzag lines outside school gates.

Legislation means it is an offence to stop anywhere on the lines, punishable by a £70 fine. The zones are designed to make the busy areas outside schools safer for children.

Karen Shakespeare

More than 80 penalty notices have been handed out since the car took to the streets in September.

Technology

The car, which was already one of the council's fleet of vehicles, has been kitted out with smart technology.

Using Google Maps and GPS, it senses when a vehicle has been driven into an area with the yellow zigzag lines and starts recording. It stops when the car leaves the area, capturing the number plates of all those parked illegally.

The car was deployed outside several schools in June and July as part of a pilot project but has been rolled out across the whole borough since pupils started back with the new term in September.

The project is costing £60,000 to set up and aims to be self-financing, meaning the cost of running the scheme will be funded by the income from fines.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, the council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Illegal parking outside schools puts the lives of children at risk. The yellow zigzag lines are designed to keep the road clear so that children can see and be seen. People who flout the law and ignore the zigzags will be fined."

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MALI THE CHIMP IS BERRY HAPPY AT THE ZOO

Mali enjoying her blackberry feast – the Dudley Zoo chimpanzee loves the berries harvested from the zoo's grounds on Castle Hill

MALI the chimpanzee posed for the camera as she wolfed down some juicy autumnal treats at Dudley Zoo.

The attraction's seven female chimpanzees have been tucking into delicious blackberries, freshly picked by keepers from bushes around the site on Castle Hill.

And 23-year-old Mali didn't waste any time in tucking into the feast. Seasonal produce is always on the menu for the 200 different animal species at the Black Country attraction laid out around the town's medieval castle.

It's not just the chimpanzees who are getting their five a day. Keepers recently discovered that a rhino iguana, named Jane, couldn't wait to munch her favourite food when keepers delivered her breakfast. The seven year-old lizard, a creature found in the Caribbean, has a particular fondness for peppers and always picks over the vegetables in her food bowl to pick out the sweet tasting peppers to enjoy first.

Senior Keeper Sam Grov, said: "Jane will always eat the peppers first, it doesn't matter what colour they are or where they are in the bowl, she'll root through the other vegetables to find them and they're gone in a flash."

POLITICS

Move to scrap MP's constituency

DUDLEY'S electoral boundaries could drastically change under plans announced this week. The Boundary Commission has unveiled proposals to cut the number of MPs from 650 to 600 by carving up hundreds of constituencies.

Under the plans a new Dudley constituency will include three quarters of the Dudley South seat held by Conservative MP Mike Wood. Labour MP Ian Austin's Dudley North seat would be abolished, with parts going into a new Wolverhampton South and Coseley. St Thomas's, currently in Dudley North, would go to Warley.

AMBULANCE

Worker is injured in digger incident

A FACTORY worker has suffered serious leg injuries following an incident in Brierley Hill involving a digger.

An air ambulance landed at an industrial premises on Wallows Road at around 10am on Tuesday.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said the Midland Air Ambulance with a doctor on board and an ambulance with two paramedics were at the scene.

TRAFFIC

Upgrading signals to ease congestion

A SCHEME to upgrade traffic lights on busy routes across the Dudley borough in a bid to cut congestion has been revealed.

Signals are to be improved along Duncan Edwards Way and Stourbridge Road, near Scotts Green Island, at High Oak, Pensnett. and near Cinder Bank after Dudley Council secured funding.

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EVERYONE GOES CRAZY FOR TOM

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Warehouse valued at £450k for auction

AN INDUSTRIAL unit valued at around £450,000 is going up for sale on an online property auction.

It is being hailed as an opportunity for a growing company to gain a foothold in the West Midlands.

The unoccupied 1.5 acre property is Unit 10 on the Gibbons Industrial Park in Kingswinford. The buildings are configured to provide approximately two or three warehouse spaces, with the remaining space comprising of two-storey offices. In total it covers 19,700 sq ft. The property is on the market with a guide price of £400,000 - £450,000 or more.

It is up for auction in an online property auction held by John Pye Property this week.

The sale comes after warnings from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors that a severe lack of industrial space is a 'major issue' in the West Midlands with less opportunities for businesses to start-up, grow or expand.

Richard Reed, head of property at John Pye Property, said: "This commercial space and immediate vicinity lends itself to industrial use, west of Birmingham and also in close proximity to Wolverhampton and Dudley; there are clear opportunities for international, national and regional companies.

Stars back video firm's charity concert spectacle

By Diane Davies

A-LIST stars Ricky Gervais, Joanna Lumley and Peter Egan have stepped up in support of a Stourbridge production company's one-off unique charity show.

Keyboards supremo Rick Wakeman and international artist Maria Rud are starring in the Over the Moon show, arranged by Stourbridge-based Base Video Productions.

Gervais, Lumley and Egan have all taken part in a new video urging people to support the Over the Moon show which takes place at the spectacular Queen's House in Greenwich, London, on December 10.

Comedian Gervais and actress Lumley, in the 45-second footage, say how they have been asked by Egan, who is the UK Ambassador for charity Animals Asia, to tell people about the event and the cause it is raising money for. The film then cuts to a brief performance by Wakeman on the keyboards.

Combine

The show aims to combine art, music and architecture. The former Yes musician's compositions will be translated into live artworks by Rud, who will paint onto a lightbox, her creations then projected onto the building, which will become a spectacular canvas for the evening.

The Over the Moon set will be a blend of classic Wakeman material with new compositions written especially for the event. On stage with Rick will be his son Adam, percussionist Ed Scull and leading London vocal ensemble the English Chamber Choir, conducted by Guy Protheroe.

The event will be in 'promenade' format, allowing the audience to view the projection from different angles and fully immerse themselves in the performance.

The pioneering show is being arranged by Base Video Production which was founded by Andy Dingley and Warren Evans and is based in Rufford Road.

The company focuses on live event and TV production inside the UK and worldwide with their studio complex winning a House of Commons award for best venue in 2014.

Proceeds from the show will be donated to wildlife charity Animals Asia, which campaigns to end the bear bile trade. More than 10,000 moon bears or Asiatic black bears are caged on bile farms in China, according to Animals Asia figures.

Animals Asia has rescued over 600 bears, caring for them at its award-winning bear sanctuaries in China and Vietnam. The 'moon bears' are kept on farms where they are locked up in cages for years with bile extracted from their gallbladder daily. The bile is used for medical reasons such as the treatment of rheumatism.

Andy said: "Warren and I are very excited to be involved in such a unique and ambitious project, and to support a fantastic cause. Base Video Production have been involved from the outset, and it's rewarding to see the project come to fruition"

Wakeman added: "I like projects that are totally different to the norm, and I'm really looking forward to performing at Queen's House. Maria is a truly gifted artist, and I've written some special pieces especially for the show to go alongside some of my classic works. The concept is unique and exciting, and we're going to be raising money for a great charity."

Queen's House was designed by Inigo Jones in 1616 for King James I's wife, Anne of Denmark

Tickets are £32 for standard or £84 VIP. For more details visit soundandvisionlive.com

Ricky Gervais – support

Maria Rud will create images live to music projected on the historic building

Rick Wakeman has written music

Andy Dingley – ambitious project

Joanna Lumley – video

Shortage of staff results in care home closing down

A CARE home looking after almost 30 people is to shut because bosses struggled to recruit trained nurses.

Nethercrest Nursing Home in Netherton was told to improve by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) after an inspection last year, which uncovered staffing shortages.

At the weekend operator Astonbrook Care Homes said the 37-bed facility would close due to difficulties recruiting permanent trained nursing staff. It said the situation was worse in Dudley than elsewhere in the country.

The home, which looks after people with physical disabilities or dementia, has 33 staff. Families were told of the decision last week. No date has yet been set for closure. Dudley Council is working with the home and families to find alternative care for residents.

Triggered

In a statement, operators said: "It is a decision that has been triggered by the extreme difficulties of recruiting permanent additional members for the nursing team and a clinical lead in particular. While there is a well publicised national shortage of qualified nurses the situation in Dudley is even more acute."

Lucy Holl, operations director, added: "Faced with the prospect of not being able to recruit trained nurses now, or in the foreseeable future, this regrettable decision is the only course of action open to us. Every step necessary will be taken to minimise disruption to residents and to ensure their move to care facilities suited to their nursing, care and personal needs is smooth and caring."

Police plea after motorcyclist hurt

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a motorcyclist was seriously injured in a crash involving a car in Dudley.

The incident happened on Duncan Edwards Way in Dudley just before 7am on Thursday, October 12.

Police and West Midlands Ambulance Service were called to the scene.

The motorcyclist, a man aged in his 30s, suffered multiple injuries and was gas given trauma care at the scene.

He was then taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Police closed the road between Pegasus Island and Cinder Bank after the accident to investigate. Any witnesses to the accident, which happened as rush hour got under way, are asked to call police on 101.

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Tram lines get a fresh lease of life at museum

OLD tram lines ripped up as part of ongoing Midland Metro works will have a new life – at the Black Country Living Museum.

The tracks have been donated to the museum to be included as part of its vintage tram display.

Around 100 metres of tram track have been removed as part of the works which are continuing along the A41 Bilston Road.

They have been donated by company Midland Metro Alliance to the museum to enhance its Forging Ahead project. It will be installed as part of 1930s-inspired street.

Vintage

The donation was made after workers discovered that the rails in Wolverhampton was compatible with the track of the vintage tramway at the Tipton Road tourist attraction.

Paul Brown, Midland Metro Alliance project director for the Bilston Road tproject, said: "Whilst the track along Bilston Road was reaching the end of its operational life for such a busy route, there was still enough life in the track for a smaller vintage tramline."

Black Country Living Museum has announced expansion plans backed by significant financial support from the National Lottery. BCLM: Forging Ahead, will see the museum create a town focused on the1940s to 1960s.

Sneaky peaky at series premiere

THE stars of Peaky Blinders are returning to Birmingham this month for a special premiere ahead of the show's fourth series.

Cillian Murphy, Helen McCrory, Paul Anderson, Packy Lee and others will be on the red carpet at Cineworld Birmingham for a special screening of the first episode of the new series on October 30.

The stars will be joined by creator and director Steven Knight, who was born in Birmingham. They will hold a panel session at the end of the episode for those lucky enough to get tickets.

Fans can register online at www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours website. The gangster drama was part filmed on location at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

New classroom

A DUDLEY school will get a new early years classroom after planners approved an extension. Jesson's Church of England Primary School, in School Street, will build a new classroom, toilet and quiet area.

Ophelia sends debris crashing into street

The area around the damaged building was cordoned off

A BUILDING'S roof partially collapsed in Quarry Bank as the Black Country was lashed by the fringe of Hurricane Ophelia, which brought widespread destruction to Ireland on Monday.

Brierley Hill firefighters were called out to Quarry Bank's High Street after the gable end of a terraced building collapsed. The property includes nine flats above a shop with one occupant having to move out for the night.

The road was closed off in both directions by the junction of New Street. No one is said to have been injured but six to eight foot of brickwork is said to have collapsed from either side of the roof.

West Midlands Police and Dudley Council are said to be looking into the incident.

The worst of the storm hit Ireland where a woman in her 50s and a man in his 30s were killed as the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia hit the British Isles. The woman died when a tree fell on her car and the man died in a chainsaw accident in Co Tipperary while attempting to remove a tree downed by the storm.

About 120,000 homes in the Irish Republic and 4,000 in Wale, were without power. Although winds were not as violent over the West Midlands, the storm caused around 15 flights from Birmingham Airport to be grounded.

Plea to motorists over concern for missing man

THE cousin of a Stourbridge man who has been missing for over a week has pleaded for his safe return home.

Concerns are growing about 43-year-old Matthew Gill, last seen leaving his home at 9am on October 6.

Cousin Louise Flanagan, 40, from Stourbridge, said: "Saturday night it went a bit crazy – people were just posting things on the Facebook page. If there is any sighting it must be passed to the police.

Matthew Gill has been missing since October 6

"We don't know what kind of mind-state Matthew is in. If people he doesn't know approach him it could freak him out."

Officers investigating the disappearance of Mr Gill are appealing for anyone who may have seen him on the A449 on Friday morning, October 6.

There has been a reported sighting of him walking on the A449 in Wall Heath and officers want to hear from anyone else who spotted him on the stretch between the Stewponey and Swindon Road junctions between 10.45am and 11.30am. They are particularly keen to hear from motorists who were travelling that route and may have dash-cam footage.

Pc Shaun Thomas said: "This is completely out of character for Matthew and we are appealing for anyone who may have seen him to come forward."

Mr Gill is described as white, 5ft 10ins tall, medium build, clean shaven with short cropped hair. It's possible he was wearing a white baseball cap, tracksuit bottoms and grey trainers. Contact the police on 101.

Amy's doble delight on Strictly

Amy and Brian's routine on Strictly Come Dancing on Saturday proved a hit and keeps them in the competition

BLACK Country dancer Amy Dowden and her celebrity partner Brian Conley waltzed through to the next round of Strictly Come Dancing at the weekend.

The 26-year-old from Dudley performed the Paso Doble to I Believe In A Thing Called Love by The Darkness with the comic actor and former Birmingham panto star on Saturday night. The pair's performance kept them out of the bottom two in the public vote, thereby sparing them another the dance-off to stay in the competition. Judge Bruno Tonioli had dubbed the performance 'punko doble'.

Miss Dowden runs an academy called Art in Motion, which runs classes in Tipton, Wombourne and Great Barr. She moved from Caerphilly in Wales six years ago to Dudley, where she lives with partner Ben Jones in Oakham. Miss Dowden also teaches at Hallfield School in Edgbaston.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP's bid to help emergency crews

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is backing a bid to introduce tougher sentences for yobs who assault members of the emergency services.

A bill is due to go before Parliament this week aiming to bring greater protection for police officers, paramedics and firefighters.

Labour MP Mr Austin said he is determined to ensure the bill goes through.

He said: "I'll be in Parliament on Friday to make sure the new law goes forward.

"These are brave public servants working to help or protect the rest of us and they deserve our support."

Major junction to close for half-term

A MAJOR junction in Pensnett will be closed over the half-term holiday to carry out essential work.

Dudley Council bosses have announced that Swan Street will be shut at the junction of High Street to enable BT to carry out essential works.

It has been timetabled from October 23 to 27 but the road will open earlier if the works are completed.

It's part of the £6.3 million improvement scheme which will see the road widened along High Street so the road will have two lanes in both directions.

Free service for those facing debt

A SUPPORT group is offering free advice for anyone concerned over bills or growing debts.

The Centre for Equality and Diversity, in Stone Street, Dudley, is offering its free service with money mentor Peter Dyson on hand to help.

He said: "We aim to give help to anyone who is struggling with debt and will meet up with them over a number of weeks if necessary. This will help residents gain control over their finances and budget properly."

Call 07936 576194 or email money mentorscfed@yahoo.co.uk

GP will be recalling experiences for talk

RETIRED Black Country GP and author Dr Edward Cooke is to deliver an illustrated lecture in Dudley next week drawing on his experiences – comic, tragic and macabre – whilst working in the Dudley area.

His talk 'Ferces and Plerces' will be held for the Black Country Society at Dudley Canal Trust's headquarters, The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, on Wednesday, October 25, at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome.

COUNTY NEWS

Call for reports on accident hotspots

A FORMER mayor has called for councils to publish details on the number of accidents at spots where speed cameras could be poised to make a return.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson confirmed that he is in talks with Black Country councils around bringing them back.

But former Walsall mayor Peter Smith has issued a word of caution on the move. He said: "Motorists will be suspicious that this is a move to raise money, unless evidence is produced that demonstrates the chosen locations are proven hotspots."

Keith Allen named as Comic Con star

ACTOR, comedian and musician Keith Allen is coming to Birmingham's Comic Con.

The event, at the NEC, will also feature Veronica Taylor, known for voicing the part of Ash Ketchum in Pokémon. Keith is best known for his roles in films Trainspotting, Eddie The Eagle and TV's Robin Hood.

Keith was a member of London punk band Atoms in the late 70s and later Fat Les, a band which also featured artist Damien Hurst and Blur bassist Alex James. Keith will be at Comic Con on both November 18 and 19. Autographs with the star will cost £20, and photo sessions cost £24.

Cat owners alerted over fatal virus

A POTENTIALLY fatal virus has infected cats across the West Midlands. The RSPCA is urging cat owners to get their pets vaccinated.

It comes after vets spotted a rise in stray cats arriving at Birmingham Animal Hospital suffering with feline panleukopenia (FPV). Senior clinician at the hospital Joanna Szkutnicki said: "FPV is a severe disease that can prove fatal. Symptoms can include vomiting, diarrhea, flu-like symptoms, lethargy and also sudden collapse."

Air ambulance lottery has 80,000 backers

AN AIR ambulance charity's lottery has reached 80,000 subscribers and now funds more than 750 missions every year.

Midland Air Ambulance hopes to get 100,000 subscribers for its Lifesaving Lottery. Last year the lottery raised £2.7 million. It needs in excess of £7m a year to operate its three helicopters. To subscribe visit www.midlandsairambulance.com/lottery

Hospital failing to meet A&E targets

ONE in five A&E patients are waiting more than four hours to be seen at Russells Hall Hospital, latest figures show. Just 80 per cent of patients were seen within four hours in August – below the national NHS target of 95 per cent.

The findings comes amid warnings of a looming winter care crisis at the Dudley hospital and across the wider NHS.

Chiefs at Dudley Council called the figures 'extremely disappointing' but said there was no 'overnight solution'. Hospital bosses also pointed to the development of a new emergency treatment centre to relieve pressure on A&E.

The number of patients seen within four hours dropped from July, when the figure was 82 per cent. In June the figure had been 90 per cent.

Councillor Nicholas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We are already worried about what winter will bring.

"These are very disappointing figures. The problem is there is a shortage of nurses right across the board.

Safely

"Dudley Council and our NHS partners are coming together looking at ways to reduce hospital admissions. There is not an overnight solution. Sometimes the Government puts in targets that are not realistic. The hospital staff are doing an excellent job who make sure people are seen as quickly and safely as possible."

NHS trust bosses announced plans in the summer for a £2.6 million Emergency Medical Centre, which is due to open next month.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We always do our best to make sure patients attending our emergency department are seen as quickly as possible and continue to see, treat, admit or discharge the vast majority of patients within four hours.

"Our combined performance in August for all types of emergency attendances, which is measured as part of the national four-hour target, was 87.2 per cent. Patients are always prioritised in order of clinical need to make sure that acutely unwell patients receive the urgent medical attention they require as soon as possible."

She added that the hospital worked to ensure patients received 'safe and appropriate care at all times'.

Shop boss sold fake famous name trainers

A SHOE shop boss has admitted selling fake Nike and Adidas trainers from his High Street store.

A sting operation at GP Footwear WM, in High Street, Dudley, found boxes full of fake trainers with a street value of more than £60,000.

Trading Standards officers confiscated a total of 602 pairs of trainers from the shop and sought to convict boss Sukhwant Singh, of Fancourt Avenue, Wolverhampton.

At Wolverhampton Magistrates Court, the 54-year-old admitted two counts of selling falsely branded trainers and two of possessing such goods.

He was given a curfew order which means he has to stay at home between 7pm and 7am.

He was also ordered to pay a £1,000 fine, £1,800 costs and an £85 victim surcharge. The court ordered him to pay the £2,885 total within 14 days.

Message

Genuine branded trainers would cost between £50 and £170, but the counterfeit trainers were being sold at the shop for between £20 and £40.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member responsible for trading standards at Dudley Council, said: "This sends out a clear message that we will do everything we can to protect the public and legitimate businesses from fake goods.

"Often these counterfeit products are poorly made which short changes the customer.

"We will always prosecute those people who operate above the law and hoodwink the general public," added Councillor Miller.

GP Footwear WM is no longer trading in

The Wright idea for Bev and Lenny

Beverley Knight celebrates her London show with family and friends including Sir Lenny Henry and Ian Wright

BLACK Country soul star Beverley Knight is beaming as she enjoys being back on tour – and enjoying a post-show cuppa with Sir Lenny Henry and former Arsenal and England footballer Ian Wright.

The Wolverhampton singer has returned to the stage over the past few weeks following recent health issues which led to a hysterectomy.

She showed she was on fine form during a performance at London's Palladium Theatre on Friday night as part of her I Love Soulsville tour.

And she was joined by family and friends along with some famous faces backstage to celebrate.

She posted pictures on Twitter posing with the Dudley-born actor and comedian and also the football pundit. She tweeted: "So amazing having my family and friends by my side on Friday at the @PalladiumLondon Love you guys!"

It has been a busy few weeks for the soul queen from Penn, who had a gig at Symphony Hall in Birmingham and will be returning to the West Midlands as one of the panto stars at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Mother lied over living arrangements to get benefit

A BENEFITS cheat from Sedgley fraudulently claimed nearly £29,000 in three years, a court heard.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that mother-of-four Samantha Turner, of Downfield Drive, netted £28,465.39 in Jobseeker's Allowance, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income support between November 2012 and January 2016.

She had told authorities that her husband had moved out and she was the sole earner, saying her husband was living with his father but when quizzed by investigators Turner's father-in-law said he had lived alone for more than a decade.

Mr Richard Davenport, prosecuting, said: "These offences came to light in 2016 after information was received, but after she had ceased to claim."

Turner had claimed her relationship with her husband 'was volatile and he often left for long periods', which meant she 'couldn't rely on him financially and claimed benefits as a safety net', he said.

Miss Kam Shergill, defending, said her 33-year-old client was of previous good character.

Recorder Paul Bleasdale QC ordered Turner to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work having pleaded guilty to the three counts of fraud by false representation.

Inspectors gave school kitchen a score of zero

A SECONDARY school in Dudley was ordered to take immediate action by food inspectors who uncovered poor cleaning standards in its kitchen, which had no hot water on the day of inspection, earlier this year.

There was no food safety management system in place when hygiene experts visited Ellowes Hall Sports College, in Lower Gornal, in March. As a result it received a hygiene rating of zero.

Bin lids presented potential 'cross contamination' risks, said Dudley Council inspectors who ordered them to be removed. The standard of cleaning in the kitchen was described as 'poor' with cobwebs and flaky paintwork within food preparation or storage areas,

School leaders were told staff needed to be trained how to operate a food safety management system, despite one being requested for the school by hygiene chiefs two years earlier.

Ellowes Hall, which has around 1,000 pupils, said its kitchen had since been re-inspected and given a rating of four out of five.

Liberal Democrats, who highlighted the report, described the conditions in March as 'scandalous'.

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Schools striving to improve

DUDLEY'S schools are the worst performing in the Black Country according to figures from education watchdog Ofsted.

Figures for the year up to August 2017 found that four per cent of the borough's schools were rated inadequate and 14 per cent required improvement.

However, 13 per cent were rated outstanding – the same percentage as Staffordshire – and 69 per cent were good, which was higher than both Walsall and Sandwell.

Dudley Council's education chief, Councillor Anne Millward, said the authority was striving to improve outcomes for all its schools.

"We are heading in the right direction, and we are working really hard alongside the schools improvement committee to target schools that need extra support," she said. "However, our task is made more difficult by the fact that successive Governments have been intent on repeatedly moving the goalposts.

"We get to a point where we are getting on top of things and then have to deal with a new curriculum, new ways of testing and new ways of reporting to the Government.

"As soon as we reach the required level they move the bar.

"We have an excellent working relationship with our schools, but there needs to be a smarter way of thinking nationally on how we determine schools' success."

Work is under way on leopards' home

WORK has started on extending the snow leopard enclosure at Dudley Zoo. The new surroundings will give the zoo's two big cats more space and allow visitors to see them better.

The building brings with it challenges because it is close to the 11th century Dudley Castle, a scheduled monument. Archaeologists are currently on site carrying out ground work ahead of the build, which is the latest project in the zoo's £295,000 anniversary revamp programme.

Zoo Manager Matt Lewis said: "We are hopeful the frame of the extension will be in place this week and the entire build completed in over a month's time."

Changing rooms

WORK on new sports facilities at a park in Cradley is to start next month. Changing rooms are to be built at Homer Hill Park. The scheme was rescued thanks to a £340,000 loan taken out by Dudley Council.

Sorrow and a pledge to improve care

Diane Wake

HOSPITAL bosses have vowed to improve governance, processes and standards of maternity care at Russells Hall following a damning report.

They spoke of their sorrow at the death of Myles, without going into the details of his care.

Russells Hall Hospital chief executive Diane Wake said: "We would like to offer our heartfelt condolences and apologies to the family of Myles Oakley for their tragic loss. We are unable to comment any further on individual cases."

At a Dudley Group Trust meeting last week officials announced that a maternity improvement plan was in place with additional training for midwives.

It comes as it was revealed that a total of 43 serious incidents were recorded over a 20-month period.

Bosses said that all families had been contacted with a 'commitment and promise' to have any of their questions answered.

During a presentation to board members, chief nurse, Siobhan Jordan, said: "We were not learning from the mistakes, but we set up a Quality Inspection Board (QIB) with many experts in midwifery. "There were meetings and engagements but most importantly engagement with the patients. If something is flagged up then we are looking at.

"Improved maternity governance is key and we are not just becoming isolated – we want to look at other organisations and work with those too."

Support will also be given from Birmingham Women's Hospital and the Maternity Unit at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

Other improvements have been added including peer reviews, additional training, consultant appointments and an improved midwife to birth ratio of 1:28.

'We didn't have the chance to hold him alive'

"YOU don't go into hospital to have a healthy baby and come out with an empty car seat."

They are the words of Louise Oakley, who has spoken of serious errors at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital which resulted in the death of her son Myles and prompted a major investigation into its maternity unit.

It was supposed to be one of the happiest days of their lives but 24 hours after going into hospital to welcome the arrival of their second child, the lives of Louise and husband Craig were left shattered.

Myles was left fighting for his life because of mistakes before birth and died at only one day old.

But as well as errors in the lead up to the birth, the parents claimed they were rushed into saying goodbye to their son and never got to hold him while he was alive.

The only pictures they have of their son were hurriedly taken on their mobile phones as a camera at the hospital wasn't working and the couple said didn't have time to get their own.

They say they were initially told there were no issues with the care received. But the couple, who are both police officers, were not satisfied with that response and carried out their own research by examining medical records.

Investigated

Myles' death was one of 43 serious incidents reported at Russells Hall's maternity department between April 2014 and December 2015 – 25 of which were re-examined amid concerns over how they were originally investigated.

Chief executive of the trust which runs the hospital, Diane Wake, this week apologised to Louise and Craig and other families affected, following a damning report into maternity services as she insisted improvements had since been made (see above).

A number of serious concerns were raised by the Maternity Quality Improvement Board, including babies' heart rates being wrongly monitored, staff being slow to react to urgent situations and the types of drugs given to induce labour.

Initial investigations into incidents to find out what went wrong, which included the case of Myles, were 'inadequate', the report said.

Craig and Louise Oakley – bereaved parents carried out their own research by examining medical records

All of these sounded familiar to Louise, 40, and Craig, 44, of Priory Close, Dudley, as many of the recommendations in the report came after errors during Myles' birth.

They arrived at Russells Hall in May 2015 expecting for Louise to give birth to a healthy baby boy. The first signs Myles was in trouble came at around 6.30pm when the ECG heart monitor started behaving erratically.

Craig said: "At 8pm he was pathological, so he was dying. He should have been delivered."

The parents say Louise was then given syntocinon, a drug used to speed up labour but one that should not be used when babies are in distress. Myles was not delivered until after 10pm, by which time it was too late.

Louise said: "Pandemonium broke out. They were shouting 'get the crash team'. It carried on for 45 minutes. I was screaming and shouting 'what's going on?'."

The battle to save Myles continued into the night but it soon became clear nothing could be done for him. His parents were taken to see him at 8am before his life support machine was switched off.

Louise said: "We didn't have the chance to hold him alive."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Supermarket gets nod for expansion

PROPOSALS for a supermarket to expand one of its stores in the Black Country has been given the green light by Dudley Council planners.

The application for Sainsbury's to extend its Amblecote store, to create a grocery online distribution hub, has been approved by Dudley Development Control Committee.

Councillor Andrea Goddard said it was a good move that will boost jobs.

But Councillor Paul Bradley, who stepped down from his vice-chairman's position to oppose the proposal on residents' behalf, said the decision was 'disappointing'.

He said: "The Sainsbury's was built in 1987, since then its just had extension after extension after extension. The distribution hub was the last straw for the locals. I'm working with locals to make sure they keep it as quiet as possible for them."

Mozart and Haydn are choir's choice

A CHOIR has announced details of its autumn concert.

Halesowen Choral Society will be performing on November 11 at St Margaret's Church, in Hagley Road, Halesowen. The concert will include pieces from Haydn's Nelson Mass and Mozart's Coronation Mass.

Tickets can be ordered at halesowenchoralsociety.org and are priced at £8.

The society is on the lookout for new members. It meets every Monday, from 7.30pm, at Hasbury Methodist Church, Albert Road, Halesowen.

Have a ball and help out hospice

EVENT organisers at Mary Stevens Hospice have launched an appeal to the public to sell the final few tickets for their anniversary ball.

The black and white themed gala on November 3 at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Wolverhampton will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the official opening of the Stourbridge hospice by Diana, Princess of Wales.

The final few tickets at £45 or £49 are available on on (01384) 377 778 or via www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/black-and-white-ball website.

Glasses will be raised at village Oktoberfest

A BEER festival is taking place in a village near Stourbridge. Oktoberfest is being held in Kinver on Saturday from 5pm until midnight at St Peter's Church Hall, Vicarage Drive. Entry is free and food will be available.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Debt: No it's not all fault of the bankers

POPULAR wisdom is that the financial crash 10 years ago was solely down to those who worked in the banking sector. Were it not for their reckless behaviour, everything would be fine and dandy, and we would all be basking in the joys of ever-growing living standards.

Certainly, the banking sector didn't cover itself in glory, but we kid ourselves if we think it was anything more than a bit-part player in the problems of the past decade. The real cause of the crash was debt. Ridiculous amounts of it. Both government and personal.

National debt more than doubled between 2005-2010. Record "investment" in health care often meant shiny new buildings leased from private companies under the PFI initiative – more debt.

Then there were the new NHS admin bodies with fancy names like "Beacon" and "Crystal", each with their own corporate logos, offices and PR teams. But then there was the even more vexed issue of personal debt. For every reckless loan doled out by the panto villains in the banks, there was also a misguided borrower. Did anybody really think a 115 per cent mortgage at five times their salary would end in anything but tears?

Blaming bankers is an alluring argument, particularly for politicians. After all, they are hardly going to say it was their fault. And blaming the general public tends not to go down terribly well either. Pointing the finger at people who are hard to love at the best of times is always going to be the easy option. The problem is that they have learned nothing.

Today, government debt is at an all-time high. For all the talk of "austerity", it is still spending more than is coming in. This cannot go on forever.

At the same time, UK personal debt stands at £1.6 billion, about what it was before the last crash.

Experts are particularly concerned about PCP car purchases. Take a look at all those shiny new 4x4s you see every day. How many have been paid for? About 14 per cent. Nearly nine out of 10 new cars are bought on the never-never. And don't get me started on payday loans and "rent-to-buy" stores.

We have become a want-it-now, throw-away society, where saving to buy things and making them last is seen as old-fashioned. It may not be palatable, but we have got to accept that not everyone can have a new car, flat-screen television, computer or smart phone. If we don't live within our means, another crash is inevitable.The only question is who we blame next time.

Film-makers not letting facts spoil a good story

You can take our lives, but not our freedom...to paint our faces blue, for the movie

W1A actress Sarah Parish, proving that the most basic slapstick comedy still works

Jamie Oliver's spat with Gordon Ramsey, about the size of their families has hit the headlines

Dramatic changes as history repeats itself

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE great writer Robert Harris says there is nothing worse than a screen or stage adaptation of a book sticking too closely to the plot and becoming "stilted" as a result. Actually, I can think of something worse. It is scriptwriters and producers altering historical facts.

THERE is no evidence, for example, that Queen Victoria's courtiers Lord Alfred Paget and Edward Drummond were gay, let alone had an affair. Indeed, Paget fathered 14 children which suggests he had a passing interest in heterosexuality. Yet in Victoria (ITV), Paget and Drummond are lovers. Writer Daisy Goodwin says she has been "creative" in her interpretation of history and "some people might get very cross with me." Only the sort of people who get cross at movies suggesting the Yanks retrieved the Nazi's Enigma code machine (U-571) or that William Wallace painted his face blue (Braveheart). These days, people get their history from television and movies. The least they can expect is accuracy.

THERE'S a running joke in the satirical comedy W1A (BBC1) about the BBC's digital subtitle service which can neither get things right nor be switched off, and which recently announced a show starring the popular pianist Jews Holland. But it's hard to satirise the Beeb's real subtitle service. It was rubbish when it was launched just in time for the Charles and Di wedding in 1981 and remains rubbish to this day. A few days ago I switched on the Beeb's mid-day weather forecast. The subtitles began: "It was a grey staff are some of it this morning" and went on to warn of "one or two Mac showers." In Scotland, presumably.

SOME say W1A has lost its spark and perhaps there is a natural limit to the number of buzzword jokes viewers will accept. Yet it still has some great gags. The moment the tall, chiselled and perfectly poised Anna (Sarah Parish) walked into the glass wall and knocked herself out was one of the best TV slapstick moments since Friends' Joey punched Ross in Central Perk.

RESIDENTS of Coseley in the West Midlands have called in their MP Pat McFadden because they are plagued with badgers which dig up their gardens and even damage house foundations. It's a tricky one for any politician because badgers are a protected species whose only serious enemy is the motor car. A friend was driving home the other night and paused in a farm lane to let one baby badger cross the road, followed by another, and another. There were eight of them. They are adding to a UK badger population estimated at 485,000 which is an 80 per cent increase since the 1980s. Princess Anne famously declared that there would be a good case for culling badgers even if there was no link to bovine TB.

THERE is, if we believe the tabloids, some friction between TV cooks Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay over the size of their families. Oliver has five kids, Ramsay four. I am surprised, in an age of rocketing world population, climate change and loss of habitat, that anyone draws attention to their own fecundity. There you are, dutifully dividing your household waste into three different bins each week in order to save the planet. If the couple next door have ten kids, you must ask yourself, what's the point?

YET another email this week alleges that if you support Brexit you're right-wing. Can I advise you to have a look at Jeremy Corbyn's record from 1975 of voting against the EU and all its works? And he's right-wing, is he?

MEANWHILE, still in Europe, the death is announced of Victorino Martín, 88, the greatest bull breeder in Spain. His beasts, the victorinos, were famed for their unpredictability in the ring. It may be that some of your hard-earned taxes are supporting bullfighting, via the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. As with so many EU affairs, it's not easy to find where the money went but a report by Green Party MPs four years ago reckoned about £103 million a year was used to subsidise the bullfighting industry. Another good reason for leaving. Hey, maybe we could spend the bullfighting money on the NHS.

TALKING POINT

Educating drivers to park their car safely

There has been so much in the Press. not just lately, but for months, years now – parents parking outside schools.

It's amazing how signs and double yellow lines are totally ignored in the panic to get their children to school on time. Get up a bit earlier and park in a safe (and legal) spot or, if possible walk to school, surely the better option as you can guarantee your young ones get some exercise. With all the problems these days with child obesity surely – if feasible – that is the best option.

Another problem with this inconsiderate parking is the knock-on, pavement parking, cars 'dumped' half on and half off the pavement. Maybe they think they are being clever avoiding double parking but this just causes problems for other mums. Try getting a buggy past the parked car, not enough room on what is left of the pavement which means the mum has to bump the buggy down on to the road and take her chances with the traffic. Not very safe.

This month is Walk to School Month which aims to promote healthy living, reduce levels of traffic and make roads safer for all. Good idea – let us just hope parents go along with it. Warning – careless parking is putting children's lives at risk, including your own. Those 'drive carefully' near school signs are there for everybody, so heed the warning.

And while we are talking about ignoring signs it is not just the parents who should take the blame. Driving near schools there is always plenty of notice that pupils will be in the vicinity, possibly crossing the road, and not all areas are these days lucky enough to have a crossing warden. Pupils should not have to take their lives in their hands because of motorists speeding along. Village roads are sometimes the worst with blind bends and narrow streets. Not the place where boy racers should be showing off. In fact that applies to all streets!

Just imagine if you were that driver how you would feel if something happened. Showing off could end with you in court or having to live with what you have done for the rest of your life. Think before you put your foot down, You might think it is clever but these pupils are somebody's son, daughter, brother, sister etc and you could destroy a family for ever.

Always remember that those few minutes you may save by dumping cars on pavement, parking illegally, or speeding by a school could mean a lifetime of misery for a family if an accident happens. Heed the signs – kill your speed not the child.

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Impressed by town's bright new museum

HAVING attended the official opening, congratulations to Dudley Regeneration and Enterprise for a very successful execution of their mission to relocate Dudley Museum.

While my doubts about parking and refreshments remain, the offering at the newly-located museum shows a very well balanced and engaging treatment that should provide something for all tastes.

They've played to the borough's strengths, ie geology and the castle/medieval history – and the time-trail approach is logical and informative.

There are plenty of breakout areas for activities with children to help interpret the displays.

I liked the focus on Sir Frank Brangwyn's work – focusing on one artist at a time in a discrete space is much more fulfilling than an array of random artists from different eras.

The key to continued success will be the temporary exhibitions they put on, which will bring back those who may feel they've 'done' the place after one visit.

Well done for investing in bright lighting and new cabinets – the place feels fresh, new and welcoming. The interpretive panels are clear and concise throughout.

Undoubtedly the key target market is schools, which should be suitably impressed with the museum as a high quality local resource for their studies.

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Mogg the man of the moment

OUR Prime Minister needs to take a leaf out of Harold Macmillan's book, when he sacked six cabinet ministers in what became known, our version, as the 'night of the long knives'. She needs to remove Philip Hammond, Amber Rudd and any in the cabinet who are committed EU remainers.

Boris Johnson should become Home Secretary and bring in Jacob Rees-Mogg as Foreign Secretary and young MPs from the back benches so they can all sing off the same hymn sheet.

Jacob Rees-Mogg knows all about British history, with upper-class mannerism and accent to boot. His traditionalist views, plus his humorous speeches, would have the Americans eating out of his hands and other countries fawning over him.

Jacob Rees-Mogg could become the greatest asset in these troubled times, so I call upon the Prime Minister to bring him into the cabinet as soon as possible.

MR R F GOODALL
Stourbridge

Crackpot plan for borough's refuse

I was somewhat dismayed to read that Dudley Council are considering relocating the refuse tip which is now in Stourbridge to another place in the borough.

This is after having ruled out locating it at the Leys in Brockmoor.

The mind boggles about this decision when you consider how this council have severely cut budgets to the bone and have to save millions of pounds. Charitable trusts have had budgets reduced to zero.

Can you just imagine how much a new tip would cost to set up? All this when the surplus ground is already there at the existing tip.

It makes one wonder which councillors' dream up these crackpot schemes.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

Thanks for great show, a magical night out

MAY I take this opportunity to thank the Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Youth Society for their performance of Les Misérables on Friday, September 22.

Everyone from the cast, who gave outstanding performances, to the orchestra and the people who showed us to our seats, all were brilliant.

A standing ovation was a fitting tribute to an awe-inspiring production.

My own granddaughters took part, Kersten and Connie, and though I am biased, they were truly wonderful and brought a tear to my eye.

It was truly magical and thanks to you all who took any part in this production.

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Alfonso Urso: vehicle restoration – from an Italian ice cream family once based in Dudley he converts vehicles into ice cream vans

Liz Berry: Literature – brings Black Country dialect to life in her poems

Geoff Tristram: artist and illustrator – a cartoonist and illustrator for major publishers

The Fizzogs: comedy – Deb Nichols, Sue Hawkins and Jacky Fellows as best known as internet hit the Dancing Grannies

Dave Heeley: marathons and charity – Blind Dave's exploits include seven marathons in seven days on seven continents

Geoff Townsend: Pottery – acclaimed potter who has also taught his skills

Tanya Raabe-Webber: artist – challenges notions of identity with her portraits

David Tristram: playwright – film and playwright who helped create the comical character Doreen, as played by Gill Jordan

Bringing on brightest and best

ANOTHER batch of names has been revealed in the hunt to find the 100 most talented and skilled Masters from the Black Country.

Creative Black Country, which set out to identify the 100 Masters, is trickling out the names of those who made the list. The first names were revealed last month and here are some more nominated by the people of the Black Country.

For several months members of the public have been naming people they know who are 'brilliant at what they do'. The year-long regional campaign is aimed at inspiring and offering people a fresh perspective about the strengths, skills, talent and expertise surfacing from their locality and community. Hundreds of nominations were submitted for the June 30 deadline and now the 100 Masters list has been compiled.

The list ranges from award-winning authors, sought-after designers, green-fingered gardeners, globe-trotting art directors, engineers, athletes, crafts people, entrepreneurs, brewers, dancers, artists, poets and community ambassadors, among others, representing extraordinary talent from the Black Country.

The shortlisted Masters were chosen via a panel selection process and come from a breadth of backgrounds, ages and areas of the region.

Named in the first 20 masters were, supermodel Erin O'Connor, artist Elizabeth Ilsley, film-maker Drew Roper and Willard Wigan who creates artworks in the eye of the needle.

Creative Black Country also commissioned the Funny Things comedy festival which is running from October 23 until November 5 at some 16 Wolverhampton venues.

Project Co-ordinator, Liam Smyth, from the Arts Council England funded group Creative Black Country said the Black Country was forged by skilled craftspeople.

He said: " It was through their craftsmanship and diligence that the region became renowned as the industrial heartland of the UK. 100 Masters is an arts campaign to identify contemporary skilled people from the Black Country and help inspire future talent."

Here we picture some of the latest names of candidates from Dudley and surrounding areas.

Details on www.100masters.co.uk website.

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Call to be proud of past while forging the future

Political leaders from different parties meet students at the launch of the borough community vision at Coronation Gardens

POLITICIANS have united to urge residents and organisations to get involved in 'forging' a bright future for Dudley.

The Dudley Community Vision has been launched to try to 'define a clear direction for the borough'.

At the launch event, chiefs hailed Dudley's place as the historic capital of the Black Country and urged people to be 'proud of our past' and encouraged them to help in 'forging our future'.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We have so much to be proud of in Dudley borough.

"No matter what the political landscape of the borough is at any time, we need to have a clear vision for our community which remains consistent as we look to ensure Dudley borough is a great place to live, work and play."

Labour group leader Pete Lowe said: "We want this piece of work to engage with people on the street, workers from the voluntary sector, faith networks, young people, our emergency services and the business community."

UKIP group leader Paul Brothwood said: "Setting a vision for Dudley borough, which all of our 318,000 residents can truly be part of, will be a big step in the right direction.

"Dudley borough is the historic capital of the Black Country and by working together we can shout loud and proud about the great attributes the borough has to offer."

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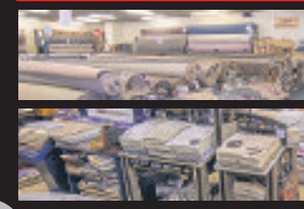

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'Tidy' travellers win praise from MP

THEY are often chastised for leaving piles of rubbish wherever they go but one group of travellers has been praised for mowing the grass at a site they illegally occupied.

The group of Scandinavian travellers prompted concerns from council bosses when they set up on a football pitch off Lister Road in Dudley earlier this year. But officers from the authority were stunned when they found a member of the group busy with a lawn mower during a site visit.

The group in around 18 caravans spent a week at the site in May. They are also tidied away rubbish before they left.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood made the revelation during a House of Commons debate on illegal traveller encampments in which MPs discussed the need for more powers to remove travellers from playing fields and parks. He told MPs: "Some of those camps, although unauthorised, have caused very little damage or disruption.

Toilets

"One group of travellers from Scandinavia tidied up after themselves, mowed the grass, and probably left the pitch in a better condition than that in which they had found it."

Mr Wood later added: "I think we can say that this particular group of travellers were fairly unusual in that they called the council and asked for Portakabin toilets when they first arrived. They tidied up the entire site before they left and one of them mowed the grass. If every group of travellers was like them then I don't think we would have any problems."

Currently police powers (under Section 61 and 62a of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act), allow the removal of trespassers who cause criminal damage or engage in abusive and intimidating behaviour, or have six or more vehicles on land. Police can seize vehicles.

Mr Wood said: "Police often seem to consider it inappropriate or unlawful to use section 61 powers because of the lack of welfare assessments and the needs of the children are likely to be applied to any such new powers."

Travellers set up on a football pitch off Lister Road in Dudley but didn't leave a costly mess for taxpayers

Cleaning up camps costs taxpayers £150,000

DUDLEY Council has spent more than £150,000 over the last three summers cleaning up the mess left behind by illegal traveller camps.

Conservative MP Mike Wood said illegal camps in his Dudley South constituency had left the authority with the huge bill, as he called for clearer Government guidance on how police and councils can use powers to move on travellers.

His concern is shared by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin, who has described the mess left by the transient land occupiers as 'completely unacceptable'.

Mike Wood MP – 'greater clarity' is needed in dealing with illegal occupations

Their comments came as the Government's Communities Minister Alok Sharma announced a review into the effectiveness of laws designed to tackle illegal camps set up by travellers and gypsies.

Speaking during a House of Commons debate on the issue, Mr Wood said: "There have been illegal incursions in areas including Netherton, Woodside, Wordsley and Kingswinford.

"There has been defecation and urination on playing pitches and children's playing areas.

Impact

"While the impact of that is, of course, felt most keenly by residents in the immediate area, the cost of dealing with it – in terms of enforcement and clearing up – is felt by the whole borough and has amounted to more than £150,000."

Mr Wood added that while he supported giving the police new powers to deal with illegal traveller camps, there needed to be greater clarity on how existing powers were being used.

Ian Austin MP – mess is 'completely unacceptable'

Labour MP Ian Austin said: "I want the council and the police to be able to deal with such sites much more quickly. I also want the council to take much stronger measures to prevent them from being occupied in the first place."

Mr Austin urged MPs to listen to proposals from West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, who has called for powers enabling local authorities to direct groups of travellers to transit sites outside of their administrative borders.

"It is my job to speak up for people in Dudley who have been affected by these camps, " said Mr Austin.

"What people in Dudley have had to put up with this summer, as in previous years, is completely and utterly unacceptable, and I want tougher and swifter action to deal with them, as well as measures that prevent travellers getting on to local parks and community facilities in the first place."

"I also want the Government to look at the proposals of David Jamieson, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner who has done a huge amount of work on these issues."

Mr Austin asked Mr Sharma top met Mr Jamieson and West Midlands MPs to discuss the impact of these issues in the region.

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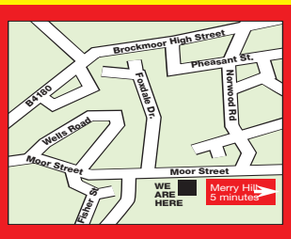

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Act now – competition is hotting up

Billy and Tom have a special bond

Persian girls Rose and Peaches

Ferret Marley loves chasing balls

Otis rests on cake stand

Flo is feeling hungry

Dog tired – Dodger and Tigs

Together – Buzz and Echo

Now for something a little bit different

AND still they flood in, a wealth of pet pictures and this week something a bit different – a ferret, ponies and guinea pigs.

Asking for food, cosying up together or posing with flowers they all have their own tale to tell. And we want to hear them. Keep those pictures coming in. It is going to be a difficult job for you readers to judge but we hope you are enjoying seeing the pictures!

Send us a picture of your beloved pet and, as well as the chance to see your pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize.

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Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide on the winner.

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Mysterious and spooky, they're altogether ooky

AN ALL-STAR cast brings a new production of The Addams Family to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this week

The show stars Samantha Womack as Morticia Addams, Les Dennis as Uncle Fester and Carrie Hope Fletcher as Wednesday Addams until Saturday.

Everyone's favourite ooky kooky family are on stage in the spectacular musical comedy from the writers of hit musical Jersey Boys, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa.

Wednesday Addams, the princess of darkness, is all grown up and has a shocking secret that only Gomez knows. She's fallen in love with a nice young man from a respectable family.

With his cherished Morticia in the dark will Gomez manage to keep his daughter's secret until the two families meet ? Uncle Fester, Lurch, Pugsley and more will play out a heart-warming story of love, family and friendship . . . with a twist.

Creepy and kooky – The Addams Family cast with Carrie Hope second from left

Sing

Social media star Carrie Hope Fletcher has previously featured in numerous musicals, including Les Miserables, Mary Poppins and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Music was always part of her life and her brother Tom Fletcher is the bespectacled singer and guitarist in pop group McFly.

"We always had some kind of musical playing in the background, and me and my brother would sing along in the car. I remember loving Beauty and the Beast on stage – all the girls wanted to be Belle," she said Carrie. "I could hide behind a character and become a different person. I was actually quite shy at school – I took a back seat, and I was terrified to put my hand up in class – but I was first in line for school plays.

"Acting can be escapism, a way of getting away from your own situation and insecurities. Someone asked me whether it's hard performing if I've had a bad day or I'm stressed out, but actually that's the best time to go play a character."

She enjoys the morbid mirth of The Addams Family, adding: "I grew up with the films. I'm a big fan of dark humour – I love Tim Burton and The Munsters.

"I didn't realise there was an Addams Family musical until about four years ago. Then when I heard about the UK tour I said to my agent 'Please, please, I have to do this'."

A scene from the musical as 'Cilla' sings while Bobby, left, watches on from the dancefloor

Step Inside Love, this musical is a must see

Cilla – The Musical, New Alexandra Theatre

REVIEW

By SUE ATTWATER

ANYONE who had a heart could not fail to be moved by this new production. It's a warts and all story of the life of the legendary Cilla Black, one that she was happy for all to see.

And the audience at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham just lapped it up. It is now just over two years since the beloved 1960s pop star died and Cilla – The Musical, is a spectacular and heart-warming musical adaptation of the critically-acclaimed ITV mini-series based on her early life.

The story was originally written for the 2014 series Cilla, in which she was brilliantly played by Sheridan Smith.

A tough act to follow but Kara Lily Hayworth, discovered by open audition where she queued for four hours, fully inhabits the role and has a terrific voice. Not quite Cilla as it has a softer tone but the audience still loved it.

The story follows the extraordinary life of the ordinary teenage girl from Liverpool, Priscilla White, and her rocky, yet incredible, rise to fame. By the age of just 25 she was recognised as as international singing star. By 30 she had become Britain's favourite TV entertainer and went on to headline series' of Blind Date and Surprise Surprise.

The musical score of course included Cilla's greatest hits Anyone Who Had a Heart, Alfie and Something Tells Me, alongside a backdrop of the legendary "Liverpool Sound" including the Beatles' Twist and Shout, and American influences like California Dreamin' by The Mamas and The Papas.

This is a show laying Cilla's personal life and the man who loved her and eventually managed her career, Bobby Willis played by Carl Au. It also shed light on the demons for Beatles manager Brian Epstein played by Andrew Lancel. They were the big influences in her life and in the musical.

The production is due at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent from November 14-18.

It is altogether superb so get a ticket and Step Inside, Love – you won't regret it.

Wedding Fair
22nd October

Newfields banqueting suite is holding its first ever wedding fair on 22nd October, there will be plenty to look at and sample. There will be two bridal catwalk shows with TDR outlet and welcome drinks on arrival. So please come down and have a look at Halesowen's best kept secret.

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Euro MP donated his kidney to save colleague

A POLITICIAN, who was Labour candidate for West Midlands Mayor, donated a kidney to save the life of one of his party's MPs.

It has only recently been revealed that Sion Simon gave his kidney to Perry Barr MP Khalid Mahmood in 2014.

In a joint interview, where they spoke publicly for the first time about the astonishing act of kindness, Mr Mahmood said he was 'hugely indebted' to his party colleague.

"It meant being able to live a normal life, which was getting increasingly difficult," said Mr Mahmood, aged 56, who is Labour's shadow Europe minister. "Essentially what Sion did for me, a huge sacrifice on his part, ended up allowing me to have a normal life again."

West Midlands MEP Mr Simon said that deciding to become a 'living donor' had not been a 'terribly difficult decision'. "He was in a very bad way, he needed a kidney," he said.

Paedophile who preyed on young girls jailed

A PAEDOPHILE who preyed on young teenage girls, sexually assaulting five of them, has been jailed for more than 17 years.

Kevin Giannoni struck after using alcohol and cigarettes to lure them to his home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 53-year-old pervert groomed the victims by letting them do things their parents forbade, like drinking and smoking, explained Miss Sharon Bahia, prosecuting.

Kevin Giannoni – perverted

Then, when they regarded him as an 'uncle' they could trust and confide in, he gave them 'lessons' in sex and boasted: 'I am a man with wise words.'

The court heard he even pretended to be a St John Ambulance official to appear more trustworthy.

The girls said they frequented the address because they could do what they wanted and felt 'grown up' but once snared they were controlled by his threats to tell their parents. "He believed he was invincible," said Miss Bahia.

Movies

The girls were encouraged to play games with a sexual element and watch pornographic home movies during visits to his address, where he took naked pictures of them after they had been plied with drink. Some were sexually assaulted on numerous occasions.

Giannoni, who lived alone, ignored a warning about his behaviour, which continued for eight years until one of the victims revealed details.

The defendant, of Cannon Drive, Coseley, was arrested in September 2016 by officers who discovered sexually explicit items and a pen camera at his home.

Naked pictures of the girls he had deleted from his computer were recovered with special software but he repeatedly denied the claims of the girls until the day after his trial had been due to start.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said: "He had no friends and no female companionship. That is no excuse for what happened but that was the context in which these offences were committed. He was particularly lonely."

Giannoni admitted making indecent images of children and sexual activity with children and was sent to prison for 17 and a half years.

Judge Simon Ward told him: "You used the trust they put in you to lure them into your world of sexual perversion. You manipulated them socially so you could abuse them sexually and feed you perverted sexual appetite."

Focus on hate crimes

HATE crimes will be examined and discussed at drop-in sessions in Dudley as part of a national awareness campaign.

The national event is organised by Stop Hate UK. Today (Thursday) people are invited to the Gather coffee shop, on High Street, Dudley, from 11am to 2pm or at Victim Support, The Broadway, Dudley the following day from 10am to 1pm.

Bob along for apple juice on Kinver Edge

THE National Trust have announced lots of family events and seasonal activities at Kinver Edge this month.

From apple pressing to lantern making, there's something for everyone to enjoy this October.

The traditions of autumn with apples a-plenty are on offer on Sunday, from 11am to 4pm. Visitors can bring their own apples and have a go at making your juice to take home with our traditional apple press. They can also explore with a walk through our woods and take in the autumnal scenery, and enjoy seasonal treats in the tea-room.

During half-term holiday youngsters can make Halloween Willow Lanterns and then join a procession around the woods of Kinver Edge with their lantern, in search of pumpkins.

With its winding woodland paths, wild heathland, mysterious caves and rock houses, it's easy to imagine all sorts of spooky tales at Kinver Edge during Halloween. Lantern making takes place at Kinver Edge Rock Houses on Tuesday and Thursday, October 24 and 26 from 11am to 2pm. The lantern procession takes place on October 27 from 6pm. There is a £3 fee per lantern, free entry for National Trust members or normal admission charges apply

For more information visit nationaltrust.org.uk/kinver-edge-and-the-rock-houses or call (01384) 872553.

Meanwhile, centenary celebrations to mark the anniversary of Kinver Edge being handed over to the National Trust by the Lee family in 1917 recently attracted a big audience despite poor weather.

Guests gathered beneath a marquee to enjoy afternoon tea and listened to speakers including general manager Marcus Halliwell – who talked about the ongoing conservation work – and National Trust director general Dame Helen Ghosh. Assistant director Ben Shipston gave a vote of thanks.

An aerial view of the National Trust's Rock Houses and woodlands on Kinver Edge, near Stourbridge

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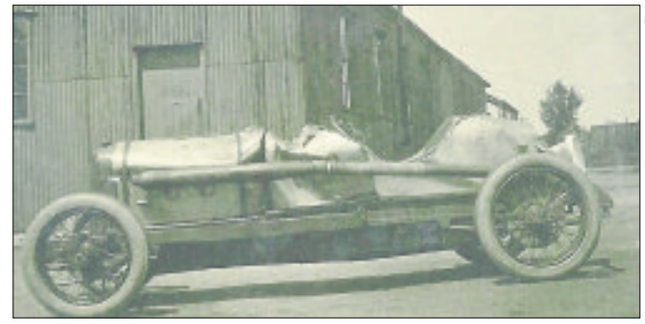
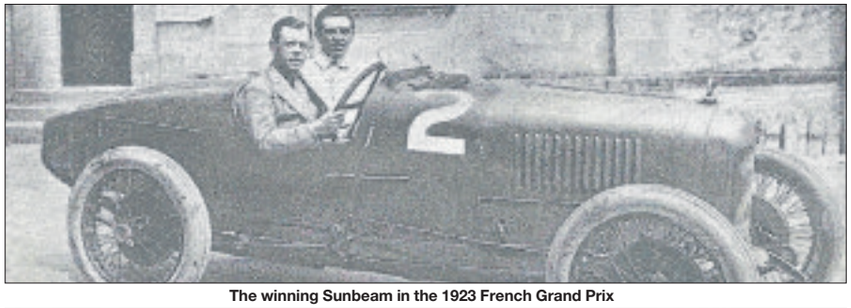


The 350hp Sunbeam crashed by Harry Hawker at Brooklands



The winning Sunbeam in the 1923 French Grand Prix

The Sunbeam racing shop in the Experimental Building

When our racing cars were finest in country

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

GREAT Britain is undoubtedly the home of the Formula One racing car industry, with most of the manufacturers based here, even if they do have foreign names.

But there was a time when Wolverhampton produced the finest racing cars in the country.

In 1903 Star made the first in the town to compete in the famous Gordon Bennett Cup, and the following year built two cars with four cyclinder 10-litre 70hp engines, for the race. One coming 4th in the eliminating trials.

This car still survives, albeit in the Technical Museum in Sinsheim in Germany, the oldest Wolverhampton-built racing car.

Although Star still dabbled in racing up to the First World War, it was their larger neighbours just round the corner in Upper Villiers Street, Sunbeam, who now became the real force in road racing.

In 1911 they employed a Frenchman, Loius Coatalen as their chief engineer, recruiting him from Rover, and he was a great advocate of racing, both as a sales tool, and as a way of 'improving the breed'.

His early cars achieved success before the War, but not in the French Grand Prix which was then considered the pinnacle of motor racing success.

Even during the First World War, when most of the Sunbeam factory was turned over to aero-engine and aircraft production, they still managed to send a team of two 4.9 litre six cyclinder overhead cam cars to America to compete in the 1916 Indianapolis 500, with the Belgian driver Josef Christeaens coming fourth.

After the War Coatalen revived his quest to win his home Grand Prix, and in 1923 succeeded, with the first British Car to do so. Sunbeams came first second and fourth, with Henry Seagrave driving the victorious car, a two litre 102 hp straight four.

After this race Sunbeam could no longer afford the cost of running a racing team, and kept their name in the papers producing a series of World Land Speed Record-breaking cars, the early ones based on their racing cars.

Coatalen lost interest and returned to his native France, and in 1936 Sunbeam in dire financial circumstances, was bought up by the Rootes Bros and closed down.

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Standard of entries excellent

Clent Gardening Club

THE August meeting welcomed an old friend in Philip Aubury who enlightened the assembled members with a talk on 'Conservatory & House Plants – A Survival Guide'. He gave much advice on the care and cultivation of indoor plants together with the best locations within a building to obtain the best results.

He also brought along a selection of plants for sale and, as usual, left with a somewhat lightened load!

The first Saturday in September witnessed the annual Clent Show when members had an opportunity to display their gardening prowess in various classes. Although the number of entries was disappointing this year, partly due to a poor growing season, the overall standard of entries was once again excellent. The show is held in conjunction with Clent WI whose members again excelled with a variety of crafts, cakes and preserves.

The club was delighted and honoured that the Queen's local representative Patricia Bradbury, the Deputy Lieutenant of Worcestershire, opened the show particularly as she lives within walking distance of the village hall!

The September monthly meeting welcomed Michael Jones from Stourbridge to give a seasonal talk on mistletoe. On October 27 Derek Higgott from Staffordshire gives a talk on 'The Secret Garden'.

Worcester source of guest's material

Amblers to head for Waseley Hills

Wollaston E TWG

CHAIRMAN Julie Willetts welcomed 44 members and two visitors to the September meeting. A number of apologies were read, mostly due to members still being away on holiday.

The previous meeting's minutes were read and passed.

Members had made many feasible suggestions for future activities. The treasurer gave an account of the club's currently healthy financial position.

The national carol service will be on December 12 and the 2018 national AGM in Brighton on June 13.

Wollaston TG carol service will be on December 5 at Cobden Street Methodist Church, while the federation carol service will be at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, on December 9. The amblers, under the leadership of Jill Dunn, meet on October 25 for a walk in Waseley Hills Country Park.

The floral art section would welcome any members wishing to join them on Thursday mornings.The annual bowls shield was fiercely fought for by most bowling section members, with Glenys Allan eventually taking the honours.

Speaker Dr Mollie Hunton spoke passionately on her beliefs in homeopathic medicine. Members found her examples most interesting and seemed keen to learn more.

Barbara Homer and Christine Picken won the raffle and Elizabeth Grove and Pat Archer won the competition.

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

AT the September luncheon at The Lodge, Wellington Road, chairman Ann Rogers welcomed members back after the summer break. In August Ann had hosted a very successful coffee morning to raise funds for charity and to cover the cost of good speakers.

After a three-course lunch members welcomed speaker Sandy Cale who appeared in period costume for her talk on Elegant Georgian Worcester.

Sandy had been a city tour guide for 17 years and described not only the beautiful buildings but the trades, such as Royal Worcester china, Lea & Perrins sauces and Dents gloves. She also described the miserable times endured during this period with the plague caused by rats escaping from ships delivering clay from Cornwall and the public gallows above the gaol. Ably assisted by her husband's slides, she was an excellent speaker.

On November 10, MP Mike Wood will talk about the Parliamentary affairs. Call 01902 372984 or email albertgrif fithsme7@gmail.com

Season of lectures kicks off

The Black Country Society

FOR the first of the season's lectures, at the Portal, HQ of the Dudley Canal Trust, on Birmingham New Road, retired history teacher Peter Kennedy considered 'Air Raids in the Black Country in the Second World War'.

Retired Black Country GP, surgeon and author Dr Edward Cooke gives the next lecture on October 25 at 7.30pm. His book 'What The! reveals hilarious yet poignant details of his career ministering to the sick and sorry of the Black Country. Admission is £2. Email wjaymorgan28@gmail.com

The Ticket

LET'S ALL GO CRAZY FOR TOM

INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

Half term at Red House Glass Cone

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The glass fusion sessions for monsters is on Thursday 26 and for ninjas Tuesday 24, Trick and Treat days are Friday 27 and Saturday 28 October, pre- booking is essential.

We have a Ninja themed family day on Wednesday 25 from 10.00am -3.00pm

The site has a variety of craft studios to explore as part of the visit.

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Oh, Tom! We are still Crazy For You

He never once thought about packing it in, though his mates told him he ought to. During his six wilderness years, Tom Chambers worked variously as a barman, pizza delivery guy, HGV driver and more. He took whatever work he could get because nobody wanted to give the fledgling actor a job.

So he recorded a video of himself tap dancing, showing off skills that few possess. And he sent it to 1,000 people – yes, 1,000. Two of them responded.

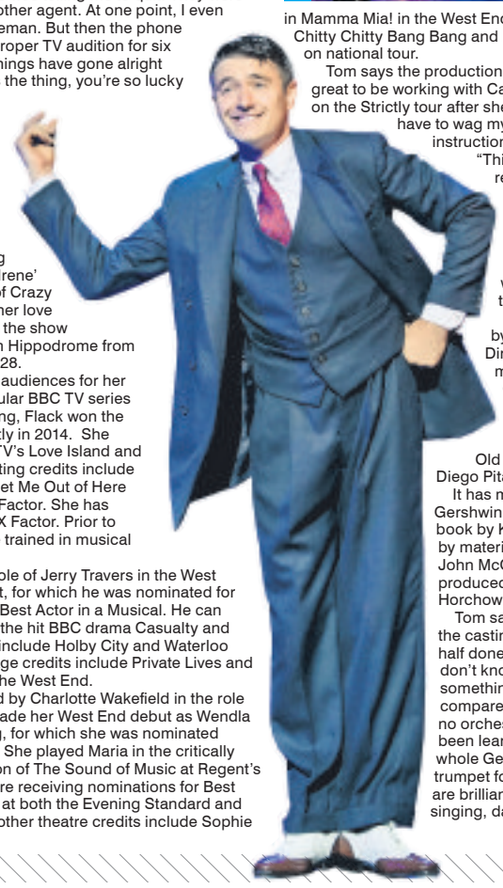
"I was lucky, one of those responses led to a TV audition."

The audition was for Holby City and that, in turn, led to an appearance on Strictly Come Dancing. For Tom, at least, the rest is history and he is now one of the biggest stars of the West End. Musical theatre adores the man who won the sixth series of Strictly with partner Camilla Dallerup.

"In this industry, you either have to have a screw loose or be slightly mad. Not giving up for that long and having that never-ending belief that you'll get there requires something a little different. Even now, I still can't quite believe what I'm doing.

"I tried for six years after drama school, I was a barman, pizza delivery, HGV driver . . . You name it. Then I did a tap dance and sent it out to 1,000 people and I got two responses. Everyone was telling me to quit. They were telling me to find another agent. At one point, I even signed up to be a fireman. But then the phone rang offering me a proper TV audition for six years. I took it and things have gone alright since that. But that's the thing, you're so lucky to get work in this industry. You only have to watch X Factor to realise what talents people have."

'Pure enjoyment' – Tom and Charlotte in Crazy For You



Tom is lining up with another Strictly winner, Caroline Flack, who is making her stage debut as 'Irene' in the national tour of Crazy For You. Tom plays her love interest, Bobby, and the show reaches Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to October 28.

Best known to TV audiences for her star-turn on the popular BBC TV series Strictly Come Dancing, Flack won the 12th season of Strictly in 2014. She currently presents ITV's Love Island and her previous presenting credits include I'm a Celebrity . . . Get Me Out of Here NOW! and The Xtra Factor. She has also presented The X Factor. Prior to presenting, Caroline trained in musical theatre.

Tom created the role of Jerry Travers in the West End musical Top Hat, for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical. He can currently be seen in the hit BBC drama Casualty and his other TV credits include Holby City and Waterloo Road. His recent stage credits include Private Lives and White Christmas in the West End.

They will be joined by Charlotte Wakefield in the role of Polly. Charlotte made her West End debut as Wendla in Spring Awakening, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award. She played Maria in the critically acclaimed production of The Sound of Music at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre receiving nominations for Best Actress in a Musical at both the Evening Standard and Olivier Awards. Her other theatre credits include Sophie in Mamma Mia! in the West End, Truly Scrumptious in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Laurey in Oklahoma!, both on national tour.

Tom says the production is enormous fun. "It's great to be working with Caroline again. I judged her on the Strictly tour after she won it in 2014. I didn't have to wag my finger at her and give her instructions, she was step perfect.

"This is her first musical. She's really purposeful. She didn't want the lead because it's her first one and she didn't want to jump in the deep end. But she's like a box of fireworks. You never what what colour it's going to be next."

Crazy For You is directed by The Watermill's Artistic Director, Paul Hart, with musical arrangements by Catherine Jayes (The Color Purple, Broadway). It is choreographed by Nathan M. Wright (High Society, Old Vic) and is designed by Diego Pitarch (The Addams Family).

It has music and lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin and a book by Ken Ludwig. It was inspired by material by Guy Bolton and John McGowan and was originally produced on Broadway by Roger Horchow and Elizabeth Williams.

Tom says: "Everything is about the casting, get that right and it's half done. In this show, you almost don't know where to look. There's something unique about this show compared to the originals. There's no orchestra or pit, the music's been learnt – imagine that, a whole Gershwin. I have to play the trumpet for four bars but the rest are brilliant. The cast have learned singing, dancing, acting and playing an instrument at the same time. There's tap dancing, spinning and playing clean notes. How you do play a violin cleanly when you're jumping around on the stage?

> *I'd say the Black Country crowd has a brilliant sense of humour*

"Everything you see played on stage is live and real. It makes it very, very exciting. It's pure enjoyment, pure escapism, a big bundle of fun. It's like medicine for the soul."

Tom was drawn to the stage by Crazy For You, which he saw when he was 15 with Ruthie Henshall. "If there was one role in my entire life at the top of my bucket list, it was Bobby. With loads of musicals, the scripts are neither here nor there. But this was written in the 1990s – when the Die Hards and When Harry Met Sally were coming out. The dialogue at that time was great with loads of one-liners. So the audience smile from start to finish. It's a classic boy meets girl, but it's the lengths Bobby goes to that makes it funny, there's a farcical element to it."

Tom is also looking forward to being back in Birmingham, where he played in Top Hat.

"I've done Top Hat and Private Lives too. It's lovely to be back. I'd say the Birmingham and Black Country crowd have a brilliant sense of humour, they're always very warm. Some parts of the country, I can't name them, they're a little bit cooler and reserved, whereas with Birmingham the audience is ready to have a good time from the moment the curtain goes up."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Simon Lipkin as popular Mr Poppy

Festive favourite in world stage premiere at Rep

NATIVITY! The Musical, a stage show based on a series of popular festive movies created by Birmingham writer and director Debbie Isitt, is bringing Christmas early to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Opening with its world premiere tomorrow (Friday), the musical filled with cute children, laughs and popular tunes will run for just over three weeks.

The Nativity series of three films have become family favourites, written and directed by Bafta award winner Isitt. And now she brings to the stage the hilarious story of a school's attempt to stage the best nativity play, led by the exasperated teacher Mr Maddens and his eccentric teaching assistant Mr Poppy, and featuring 27 enthusiastic youngsters – all from the West Midlands.

"Birmingham and the West Midlands has so many talented children and I loved meeting all of them at our auditions," said Isitt.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be working with our sweet and funny young cast and the incredibly talented and hilariously funny musical theatre cast who are going to be brilliant."

After its Birmingham run (until November 12), the show is going on tour to cities including Sheffield, Manchester, Plymouth and Leeds, before a London run which will include a live cinema screening.

The cast includes West End regular Simon Lipkin (Avenue Q, Spamalot, Guys and Dolls) as the barmy Mr Poppy and Daniel Boys as Mr Maddens (Avenue Q and TV's Any Dream Will Do).

For tickets see Birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Civic is back with rock icons Placebo

The gig of the week has to be between the return of Wolverhampton Civic Hall with goth icons Placebo on Saturday night and the ice cool London Grammar at Birmingham O2 Academy on Monday.

London band Placebo, fronted by Brian Molko, pictured, burst onto the music scene 20 years ago with Nancy Boy and went on to work with David Bowie and REM's Michael Stipe. They released seven studio albums, won loyal followings in the UK and France and had hit singles with Pure Morning, You Don't Care About Us and Every You Every Me from their classic Without You I'm Nothing album.

London Grammar, fronted by Hannah Reid, won acclaim for their debut album If You Wait and hit single Strong in 2013, and released second album Truth Is A Beautiful Thing this summer. They will be supported by LA outfit Lo Moon for the sold out Birmingham show.

It's all going on at the O2 Academy tomorrow (Friday) with Dizzee Rascal in the main room and Roachford and Gabrielle Aplin (sold out) in the venue's other rooms. At the same venue Grammy Award-winers Train have sold out their show on Saturday, Atlanta rapper Future plays on Sunday, Marmozets on Monday, The Horrors on Tuesday and Zara Larsson on Wednesday.

Over at the 02 Institute in Digbeth, Bewdley's Becky Hill has sold out her Friday night gig. Metronomy play the venue on Saturday, the same night as MOBO winner Shaka.

Californian singer BANKS visits on Sunday. Electro-punk duo Sleaford Mods play next Thursday.

Emeli Sandé heads to Birmingham's Genting Arena on Wednesday, in support of her second studio album Long Live The Angels.

In Wolverhampton young punks Cabbage play the Slade Rooms tomorrow, whilst WASP celebrate the 25th anniversary of their album The Crimson Idol at the Wulfrun Hall. Former Stranglers frontman Hugh Cornwell is at the Wulfrun on Saturday.

The South play the music of The Beautiful South and feature one of that band's former singers, Alison Wheeler, at Bilston's Robin 2 on Sunday.

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So, whether you're looking for somewhere to meet with family and friends, have a bite to eat, enjoy some live music or challenge yourself with a classic pub quiz, the Samson and Lion has something to offer everyone.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

SATURDAY'S TV OCTOBER 21

CHOICE

Kit Harington

Gunpowder (BBC1, 9.10pm)

New series. In 1603, following the death of Elizabeth I, King James of Scotland claims the English throne, and the country goes to war with Catholic Spain. As a result, English Catholics are persecuted and driven into hiding, but after witnessing the brutal means by which the Crown intends to punish his people for practicing their faith, recusant Catholic Robert Catesby devises a treasonous plot to assassinate King James. However, he must first enlist the aid of stalwart allies, and heads to Brussels to seek the help of a hardened war veteran named Guy Fawkes. Three-part historical drama, starring Kit Harington as Catesby – his own ancestor – alongside Liv Tyler, Mark Gatiss, Derek Riddell and Tom Cullen.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45 Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. **4.05** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities.

6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Twelve couples remain as the annual dancing competition enters its fifth weekend. The pressure to put in a flawless performance remains as high as ever, as the duos once again take to the stage to demonstrate the routines they have been practising throughout the week. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman are on hand to oversee proceedings, as judges Shirley Ballas, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood share their thoughts on the couples' steps.

8.20 Casualty. Connie distracts herself from her personal problems by trying to get to the bottom of the squabbles between Dylan, David and Louise, who have been in conflict over Dylan's decision to smuggle Sanosi into the UK. Meanwhile, Lily is made uneasy by the natural chemistry between Sam and Iain, who she discovers have a romantic history together, and Max tries to deliver bad news to mortuary assistant Tara, whose new squeeze seems to have a troubling secret.

9.10 Gunpowder. New series. Historical drama telling the story of the 1603 plot concocted by Robert Catesby and his Catholic co-conspirators to kill James I. Starring Kit Harington and Liv Tyler.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Watford at Stamford Bridge and Huddersfield Town v Manchester United at the John Smith's Stadium. Watford started the season in fine form to take their place in the top half of the table, and were expected to provide an stern examination of Chelsea's title credentials.

12.00 The NFL Show. **12.30** The Weight Cut: Extreme Weight Loss. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Animal Park Summer Special. (R) **7.30** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.00** Deadly 60. (R) **8.30** Show Me What You're Made Of. (R) **9.00** Saturday Mash-Up! **11.00** Walrus: Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. (R) **2.00** Coast. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Mastermind. (R) **4.30** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R) **5.30** Anglesey: Island Life.

6.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don advises on what plants need protection and how to nurture tender plants over the coming months. Plus, Carol Klein celebrates ornamental grasses. Including Weather. (R)

7.00 Coastal Path. Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives. (R)

7.30 Front Row. Darcey Bussell celebrates the legacy of choreographer Kenneth Macmillan, and Stig Abell interviews Philip Pullman about his new novel The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage.

8.00 Britain Afloat. Mary-Ann Ochota examines the prevalence of the punt, the flat-bottomed vessels first set afloat in the Bronze Age. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodges' men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R)

9.00 Lucy Worsley's Nights at the Opera. The presenter details how Bizet's Carmen, Puccini's La Boheme, Wagner's Ring Cycle and Richard Strauss's Salome swept away operatic conventions in the 19th and early-20th centuries.

10.00 QI XL. With Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Claudia Winkleman.

10.45 Later – with Jools Holland. With Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, Wolf Alice, Grizzly Bear, Sza and RL Boyce.

11.50 Film: In Our Name. (2010) A British soldier is haunted by her experiences in Iraq, and becomes increasingly paranoid about her daughter's safety. Drama, starring Joanne Froggatt and Mel Raido.

1.15 Film: In the Dark Half. (2012) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** Gino's Italian Escape – Islands in the Sun. (R) **11.50** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's race meeting at Ascot. **5.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **5.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.

6.20 Cannonball.

7.20 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh invites Jamie Theakston, Faye Tozer, Ben Cohen and Sara Pascoe to take part in the quiz, with thousands of pounds in charity donations up for grabs.

8.20 The X Factor – Judges' Houses. Dermot O'Leary presents as the contest enters the judges' houses stage, which sees the 24 remaining would-be stars jetting off to exotic locales for a taste of the glamour that comes with international stardom. This time, the Boys accompany Louis Walsh to Istanbul, while the Girls follow Sharon Osbourne to San Francisco. Simon Cowell takes the Groups to his villa Chateau Diter near Cannes, and Nicole Scherzinger takes the Overs to South Africa. Each group will receive mentoring from some of the judges' closest confidants, as former X Factor judge Cheryl returns to mentor Simon's ensembles, and Jack and Kelly Osbourne help their mother Sharon with the girls. Nicole will be enlisting the aid of UK grime star Stormzy, while Louis' lads will be mentored by Brit Award-winning singer Mika.

10.15 The Jonathan Ross Show.

11.25 ITV News; Weather.

11.45 Film: Mickey Blue Eyes. (1999)

1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.40** Triathlon: Hever Castle. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **2.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.50** Best Laid Plans. **4.55** Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Further coverage from the 17th round of the season at Circuit of the Americas in Texas.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman. The presenter explores the Severn, Britain's longest river, which flows through both England and Wales. Along the way, he visits the largest ship graveyard in the country, meets the last practitioners of an unusual form of fishing, and takes part in a coracle regatta. He finally reaches the source of the river, where he meets a local poet. (R)

8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone. Tony Robinson presents the first of two programmes using drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. Among the locations featured is a village on Salisbury Plain that is not listed on any maps, and is used by the military for training. The drones record an exercise involving tanks storming the area. Other sites include the world's most advanced container port, a Second World War bunker, an abandoned airbase that once housed nuclear weapons, and an 18th-century mansion belonging to a Russian billionaire. (R)

9.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session (Start-time 10.00pm), as the drivers contest starting grid positions at Circuit of the Americas in Texas, ahead of the 17th round of the season. Presented by Steve Jones, with analysis by David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan.

11.35 Film: The Iceman. (2012) Fact-based crime drama, starring Michael Shannon

1.25 The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors: Future Crime. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** The A-Team. (R) **2.40** The A-Team. (R) **3.40** The A-Team. (R) **4.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary giving an insight into cash-strapped Britain from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments, including High Court enforcement bailiffs and repossession teams. The series follows each case as it unfolds, recording the thoughts and feelings on both sides, the process of repossession and the impact it has on all involved. (R)

6.40 Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) As Allied forces prepare for a major assault on Germany, a small unit of American soldiers is sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine – but German forces are determined to prevent the Allied advance, and seek to destroy it. Second World War adventure, starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and Bradford Dillman. Edited for language.

7.40 5 News Update.

7.45 Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) Concluded.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Bristol City v Leeds United at Ashton Gate, Middlesbrough v Cardiff City at Riverside Stadium, and Millwall v Birmingham City at The Den.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Shrewsbury Town v Fleetwood Town, and Carlisle United v Notts County.

10.30 Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing sacred bat in the African jungle. Comedy sequel, with Jim Carrey and Simon Callow. Edited for sexual content and language.

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** Notorious: The Philpott Fire – 5 Years On. (R) **4.00** Killer Schoolgirl: Countdown to Murder. (R) **4.50** Great Scientists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Incredible Human Journey **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Beck: The Family **10.30** Beck: The Invasion **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1984 **1.20** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **2.20** Wild China **3.20** Close

ITV2

11.25 The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge **1.30** Take Me Out **2.55 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **5.05 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **6.45 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** Timewasters **1.30** Bromans **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.15 FYI Daily **11.20 Film:** The Nun's Story (1959) **12.55** Lewis **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.00 Football Rivalries **12.10** The Darts Show **12.45** World Series of Darts Live: Germany. Coverage of the opening session of the second day of the inaugural staging of the tournament. **5.00** Nijinsky's Triple Crown **5.05** Pawn Stars **7.00** World Series of Darts Live: Germany. Coverage of the semi-finals and final of the inaugural staging of the tournament. **11.00 Film:** Conan the Destroyer (1984) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Conan the Destroyer (1984) **1.05** The Sweeney **2.05** The Classic Car Show **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.50** Rude Tube **3.15** Tattoo Fixers **4.10** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Siege of the Saxons (1963) **1.00** Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **2.55** Marmaduke (2010) **4.40** The House of Magic (2013) **6.20** Hulk (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Eric Bana. **9.00** Thor (2011) Fantasy adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth. **11.15** Machete Kills (2013) **1.25** The Hole (2009) **3.20** Close

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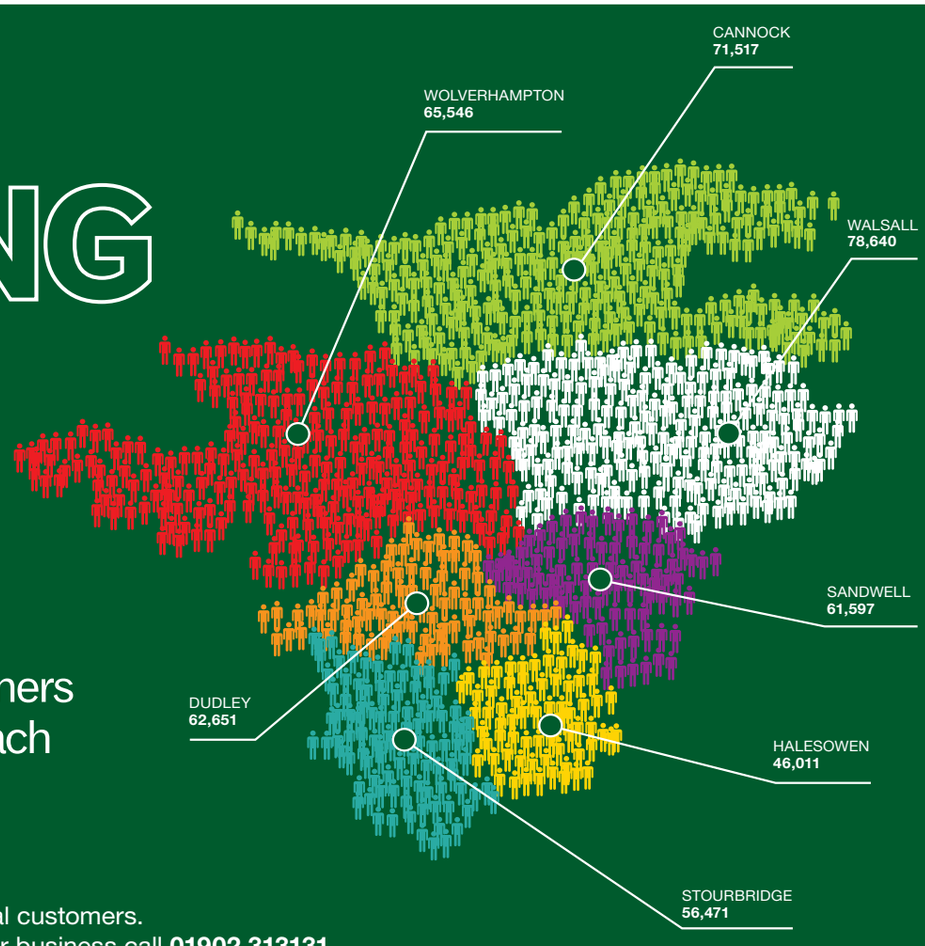

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SUNDAY'S TV OCTOBER 22

CHOICE

Angela Scanlon

Robot Wars (BBC2, 8pm)
New series. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present a new format for the contest. Among the new twists are a new hazard that fills the arena with fog, Robot Redemption rounds, in which losing teams have a chance to get back into the contest, and the show's biggest ever battle, the Ten Robot Rumble, in which 10 teams battle to the death with no time limit.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Eat Well for Less? (R) **5.50** BBC News.
6.05 Regional Programme.
6.15 Countryfile. John Craven and Margherita Taylor present the show from Cornwall, where they attend a food festival dedicated to using every part of an animal, visit a vineyard with unusual origins, and meet a writer who is trying to preserve the Cornish language. Plus, Adam Henson reports on soya farming and Tom Heap examines calls to suspend public rights of way.
7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's public vote, which is combined with the judges' scores to reveal the two lowest scoring couples. Both pairs will compete in a dance-off to decide which of them will be eliminated from the contest. With music from Irish rock band the Script.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Senate House in Bloomsbury, where experts meet a man who has flown in from Antwerp to get a carved whale bone scrimshaw valued. Other items featured in the show include a brick that survived the Great Fire of London and a stuffed artist's model used by some of 19th-century Paris's most famous painters.
9.00 The Last Post. Drama about military police and their families in a 1960s British colony on the Red Sea coast.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool at Wembley Stadium and Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park.
11.30 NFL Highlights. Arizona Cardinals v Los Angeles Rams. Caroline Barker introduces action.
12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.30 Film:** Suspicion. (1941) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant. **3.05** Northern Italy Unpacked. (R) **4.05** Flog It! **5.00** H is for Hawk: A New Chapter – Natural World. (R)
6.00 Top Gear. Chris Harris and Sabine Schmitz compete in a buggy race across the Californian desert that is one of the toughest events in motorsport, and Matt LeBlanc test drives new supercar the Ford GT. (R)
7.00 Colombia with Simon Reeve. The presenter explores the country as 50 years of civil war draws to a close in the wake of a recently signed peace deal. He meets guerrilla fighters who have pledged to lay down arms, but also discovers a negative consequence of their disarming, as the paramilitary gangs that control the drugs trade grow in power. Simon travels through the country with coca farmers, who discuss the government support they will need in the turbulent times ahead, as poverty and land ownership becoming pressing issues. (R)
8.00 Robot Wars. New series. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present a new format for the contest featuring a Ten Robot Rumble, in which 10 teams battle to the death with no time limit.
9.00 Louis Theroux: Dark States – Murder In Milwaukee. The reporter examines gun crime and racial tensions in the US city, meeting the police department's homicide officers and families of people who have been shot. Last in the series.
10.00 Snowfall. Franklin is determined to recover his stolen money and get revenge on the people who took it, and Leon knows someone who might be able to help him achieve his goals.
10.45 Mock the Week. James Acaster, Ed Byrne, Gary Delaney, Ivo Graham and Zoe Lyons join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the comedy show. (R)
11.20 Film: Glory. (1989)
1.15 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Amazing Animal Births. (R) **11.25** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **11.55** Bigheads. (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** The X Factor – Judges' Houses. (R) **2.55 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) **4.35** Victoria. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard invites Katie Price, Alison Hammond and Marc Baylis to take part in a special edition of the quiz show, in which they must answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of collecting the £20,000 prize for their selected charity.
7.00 The X Factor – Judges' Houses. The Judges' House phase continues, with the acts jetting off overseas to perform for their mentors in the hope of winning a place in the live shows. Each coach has a guest judge on hand to help them – Louis Walsh and Mika assess the boys in Istanbul, Simon Cowell and Cheryl teach the groups in France, Nicole Scherzinger and Stormzy take the overs to South Africa, and Sharon Osbourne is joined by her children Jack and Kelly to oversee the girls in San Francisco.
9.00 Your Song. Emma Willis presents a one-off special in which members of the public receive private performances from their favourite stars, including Rita Ora, Paloma Faith and James Arthur.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.15 Liar. (R)
12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00 Film:** Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **4.10** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Specials. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to today's Grand Prix, which takes place at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, and serves as the 17th round of the season. Presented by Steve Jones.
7.35 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live. Steve Jones presents coverage of the 17th race of the season (Start-time 8.00pm), held at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. Lewis Hamilton has dominated the second half of the campaign, as main rival Sebastian Vettel has been beset by problems. The Mercedes driver could clinch the drivers' title this evening, starting the race with a 59-point cushion, although there are still 100 points available, and victory for Vettel would narrow the gap ahead the next race in Mexico. With analysis by David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan.
10.10 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Reaction. Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan analyse this evening's race, which served as the 17th round of the season.
11.15 Film: Child 44. (2015) A secret police agent in 1950s Russia hunts for a serial child murderer in the face of an official cover-up. Detective thriller, starring Tom Hardy and Gary Oldman.
1.40 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Lisbon. (R) **2.05** Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. The Time Team presenter treks along the ancient Roman road, Dere Street. Last in the series. (R) **3.00** Gillette World Sport. Global sports action. **3.30** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.55** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two first-time buyers. (R) **5.20** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.35** Countdown. With Adrian Chiles in Dictionary Corner. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** The Great South Run 2017. **12.15** The A-Team. (R) **1.15** The A-Team. (R) **2.15** The A-Team. (R) **3.20** The A-Team. (R) **4.20 Film:** Daddy Day Camp. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Cuba Gooding Jr. **5.20** 5 News Update. **5.25 Film:** Daddy Day Camp. (2007) Concluded.
6.05 5 News Weekend.
6.10 Film: Left Behind. (2014) The world is plunged into chaos when millions of people suddenly disappear. An airline pilot tries to save the remaining passengers on his flight, while on the ground, his daughter tries to find out if her mother and brother are among those who have vanished. Fantasy adventure based on the series of novels by Jerry B Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, starring Nicolas Cage and Lea Thompson.
8.05 Film: Poseidon. (2006) A cruise ship capsizes in a tidal wave on New Year's Eve. A small band of survivors, including a professional gambler, a father searching for his missing daughter, a stowaway and a suicidal man who has regained his will to live, battles to get to the surface and escape the sinking vessel. Remake of 1970s disaster movie The Poseidon Adventure, starring Kurt Russell, Richard Dreyfuss and Josh Lucas.
9.05 5 News Update.
9.10 Film: Poseidon. (2006) Concluded.
10.00 Film: 2012. (2009) A scientist learns the world is soon to face a global cataclysm that will wipe out the human race, but finds the US president has plans to secretly save a fraction of the population, leaving everyone else to die. A writer learns of this scheme, and as the world is devastated by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, he tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster movie, with John Cusack.
1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Paddington Station 24/7. (R) **4.00** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **4.50** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Jacqueline du Pre: A Gift Beyond Words **9.00** Hamlet from Glyndebourne **11.50** Jacqueline du Pré plays Dvorak's Cello Concerto **12.40** Classic Cellists at the BBC **1.40** The Brontes at the BBC **2.40** The Story of Scottish Art **3.40** Close
ITV2
11.05 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.35** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.50** Take Me Out **12.50** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.25 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **3.00 Film:** Corpse Bride (2005) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Corpse Bride (2005) **4.45 Film:** The Haunted Mansion (2003) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** The Haunted Mansion (2003) **6.25 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.00** Through the Keyhole **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55 Film:** The Railway Children (1970) **3.00 Film:** Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **5.05** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** The Syndicate **10.05** Honest **11.10 Film:** Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) **1.10** The Knock **2.05** Mr Selfridge **2.55** Lewis **4.30** Judge Judy **5.10** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Shed and Buried **11.55** Pawn Stars **12.50 Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55 Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **3.00 Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **5.50** Hornblower **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Last Man Standing (1996) **11.05** Car Crash Global: Caught on Camera **12.05 Film:** United 93 (2006) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** United 93 (2006) **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00 Film:** Captain Ron (1992) **3.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Naked Attraction **12.20** Tattoo Fixers **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** Don't Tell the Bride **3.20** Hollyoaks

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Tears of the Sun, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A veteran lieutenant leads an elite Navy Seal team on an undercover mission to evacuate a doctor from crisis-torn Nigeria. However, the brutality of the conflict prompts the rescuers to disobey orders and intervene to save the lives of helpless refugees. Action drama, starring Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci, Cole Hauser and Eamonn Walker. (2003)

TUESDAY
Abducted: The Jocelyn Shaker Story, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A seven-year-old is abducted from a Colombian resort and her parents must risk everything to bring her home again. Thriller, starring Kathleen Rose Perkins, Luis Fernando Hoyos and Marcela Mar. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
The Good Witch's Destiny, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Cassandra Nightingale prepares to celebrate her birthday, hoping to bring as many of her friends and family together as possible. While investigating her family history, she discovers a story of a curse connected to the mysterious disappearance of her great aunt. Drama sequel, the sixth film in the Good Witch series, starring Catherine Bell. (2013)

Tears of the Sun, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
A Sunday Horse, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A determined horse rider strives to become a success in the sport, despite limited resources for training. Her career is seemingly ended by a near fatal accident, but she resolves to recover from her injuries and make a comeback by riding in the US national jumping championship. Fact-based drama, starring Nikki Reed and Linda Hamilton. (2015)

FRIDAY
Middle Men, Channel 4, 12.10am
Two men approach a slick businessman to help them put together the first porn website on the internet. He comes up with grander plans than they had ever envisaged and soon the money is rolling in. However, with success comes the unwanted attention of the FBI, conmen, corrupt politicians and gangsters. Fact-based comedy drama, with Luke Wilson. (2009)

Piers returns to get the inside story once again

Love him or loathe him, you can't argue that Piers Morgan is well connected and usually manages to extract some juicy information out of his guests.

His chat show Life Stories returns tonight and his first guest is another cracker who drops plenty of bombshells to the journalist and broadcaster.

Actress Kim Cattrall made her film debut in Otto Preminger's 1975 film Rosebud. She then went on to star in Porky's (1982), Police Academy (1984), Big Trouble in Little China (1986), Mannequin (1987), Masquerade (1988) and Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (1991).

However, the Liverpool-born British-Canadian is best known for her role as Samantha Jones in the HBO series, Sex and the City from 1998-2004 for which she received five Emmy and four Golden Globe nominations, winning the Golden Globe in 2004.

She reprised the role in the spin-off films Sex and the City (2008) and Sex and the City 2 (2010).

Since 2014, the 61-year-old has starred in the HBO Canada series, Sensitive Skin, playing Davina Jackson, a middle-aged woman who is having difficulty with growing old having been a noted beauty in her youth. And as well as appearing on TV and film, she is also an accomplished stage actress, and starred in the original Broadway production of Wild Honey, plus Antony and Cleopatra at the Liverpool Playhouse, Private Lives, and Sweet Bird of Youth at London's Old Vic in 2013.

Cattrall's private life has also kept her in the headlines.

She has been married three times to Larry Davis, Andre J Lyson and Mark Levinson, the latter with whom she co-wrote the 2002 book Satisfaction: The Art of the Female Orgasm.

She also took part in the BBC One documentary series Who Do You Think You Are? in 2009, where she discovered her grandfather George Baugh was a bigamist.

Despite an eventful life on and off the screen and stage, to millions of fans, Cattrall will always be the self-proclaimed "try-sexual" man-eater Samantha.

And it's her conversation with Morgan about the Sex and the City franchise that has caused a media storm over the last few weeks.

Cattrall and her SATC co-stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon have spent years combating rumours that there was feuds between the four of them.

But when asked about her decision to turn down a role in Sex and the City 3, she denies shutting down production with her over-the-top demands, claiming the cast have a "toxic" relationship and that "Sarah Jessica Parker could have been nicer."

On her relationship with SJP, she also says: "I don't know what her issue is, I never have."

Despite her most famous character, Samantha, appearing to have run her course, if this interview is anything to go by, Cattrall is determined to carry on regardless.

Kim Cattrall guests on Piers Morgan's Life Stories, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Elizabeth I's Secret Agents
BBC2, 9pm
The Elizabethan era was a time of great innovation. The pencil, bottled beer, the telescope, the knitting machine, the flush toilet and frozen chickens were all invented during the 1500s. But did you know that the reign of Elizabeth I also saw the creation of the first secret service? In the late 16th century, Britain was Europe's pariah – a protestant island on the northern edge of a catholic continent. England had no police force, nor even a standing army. Into this maelstrom stepped two civil servants, William Cecil and his son Robert, who devised and ran a semi-private secret state. They introduced Britain to the art of 'spyery', foiling countless plots against Elizabeth's life and eliminating their rivals – by killing them if necessary. In this one-off documentary, historical experts explore the politics and positioning around the Queen – a game with the highest stakes, where a false move could lead to death.

TUESDAY
The End of the F***g World**
Channel 4, 10.20pm
Despite what you might think after seeing the attention-grabbing title of this new series, this isn't a political documentary describing the behaviour of various nuclear powers, but is in fact a darkly comic drama – and a rather promising one, no less. It will doubtless prove controversial, but this should't put viewers off – it looks great, and boasts a sterling supporting cast including BAFTA-winner Wunmi Mosaku and Game of Thrones' Gemma Whelan. It follows teenaged outsiders James (Alex Lawther, Black Mirror) and Alyssa (Jessica Barden, The Lobster): the former a loner with violent fantasies; the latter a disaffected admirer. But while Alyssa sees a kindred spirit, he merely sees a potential victim.

WEDNESDAY
Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke
Channel 4, 8pm
In the second episode, George Clarke is joined by leading architects to help transform a house belonging to Nick and Sonia, an appallingly designed flat spread over three dysfunctional car parking spaces. George charges award-winning architects Abigail Ashton and Andrew Porter with creating something beautiful from this monstrosity. But working with a budget of £75,000, can they transform this foul flat into a proper home with two floors? And what will the pair's neighbours make of the drastic changes?

THURSDAY
Bargain-Loving Brits in Blackpool
Channel 5, 8pm
New series. Documentary following Britons living the high life on a low budget in one of the country's favourite resorts, from holiday-makers to those who have made the Lancashire town their home. Entertainer Simon Green - aka Betty Legs Diamond - talks about his life as a drag queen, and Scottish sisters Agnes and Margaret get more than they bargained for as part of their holiday package. Meanwhile, Jamie Diggins, who works as an estate agent for caravans, takes delivery of a static home that costs an amazing £280,000.

Tracey Breaks the News, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

FRIDAY
Porridge
BBC1, 8.30pm
The jury remains out on whether writers Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, the men behind the original 1970s series featuring Ronnie Barker, were wise to attempt a modern incarnation of this comedy, but at least these later episodes allow them to exercise plot lines now that the new characters have been established. In this instalment, Dougie Parfitt wants Fletch to join his crew as his consigliere. However, when Fletch tries to broker a peace with Dougie's arch rival, things don't quite go according to plan.

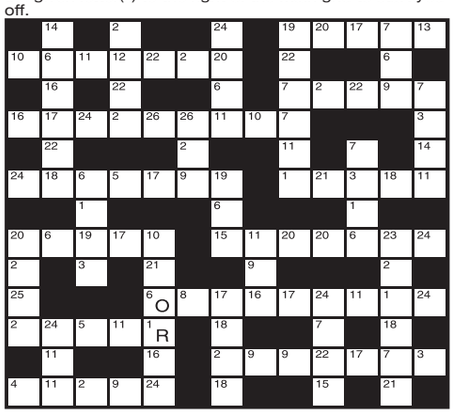
Tracey Breaks the News
BBC1, 9.30pm
New series. Greg James and Dotty host a lively mix of entertainment from the refurbished BBC Television Centre in White City, with American singer-songwriter Jason Derulo joining the pair to co-host the opening show, as well as perform two numbers.

BRAIN GYM

No.452

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



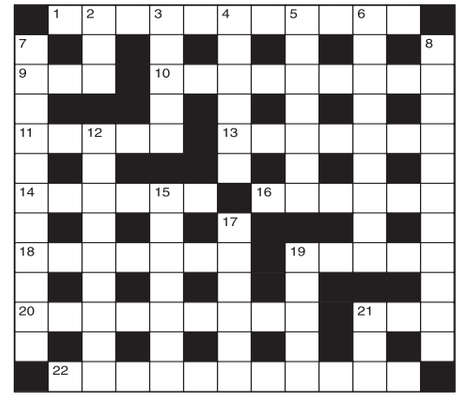
1 R	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 O	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 Q	2 Z	3 L	4 T	5 U	6 P	7 F	8 H	9 D	10 B	11 M	12 C	13 J
14 A	15 S	16 E	17 O	18 N	19 K	20 Y	21 I	22 G	23 X	24 V	25 R	26 W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Centre cross is made with precision (11)
9. Steal from Roy? (3)
10. Fill up net in abundance (9)
11. Foreign article includes untruth (5)
13. Do they obliterate series of games? (7)
14. Danger where things grow (6)
16. Softening of elevations and depressions? (6)
18. Somehow brings streams under control (7)
19. Wise men for a long time in the ship (5)
20. Ran back to sailor telling story (9)
21. Reverence for article you and I have (3)
22. Mine got more into the assembly place (7-4)

Down

2. Alternative letter in sphere (3)
3. Libertine half seen to mature (5)
4. Makes happier - usually three at a time (6)
5. Distinguished for being unskilled (7)
6. Grief's fun when in pain! (9)
7. Great manner for organisation (11)
8. Parsimonious and prepared to fight, perhaps (5-6)
12. Held back through shyness? (2,7)
15. A gentle, refined disposition (7)
17. Appoint as indication (6)
19. Put up to play jokes on you and me as a sweetener (5)
21. Bother about the year that never was? (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Have new owner (6,5)
9. Skill (3)
10. Likeness (9)
11. Swarthy (5)
13. Dexterity (7)
14. Give work to (6)
16. Reach (6)
18. Ease (7)
19. Open (5)
20. Issuing (9)
21. In the past (3)
22. Alarmingly (11)

Down

2. Very warm (3)
3. Objectionable (5)
4. Entangle (6)
5. Disease (7)
6. Blacken (9)
7. Unfeeling (4-7)
8. Journey's end (11)
12. Entreating (9)
15. Outdoor (4-3)
17. Disclaimer (6)
19. Instrument (5)
21. Everything (3)

Sudoku

	4	6			2	1		
1				9		6		
			3				7	8
5		2	9					
	6		2		1		8	
		1			7	9		2
	1				8			
		7		4			5	9
	5	3	7			2	4	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

3	4	2	6	5	8	7	9	1
5	1	6	9	4	7	3	8	2
8	9	7	1	3	2	5	4	6
2	5	9	3	6	4	8	1	7
6	8	1	5	7	9	2	3	4
7	3	4	8	2	1	9	6	5
4	7	8	2	1	3	6	5	9
9	2	5	4	8	6	1	7	3
1	6	3	7	9	5	4	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Elms; 3 Indolent; 9 Rhyming; 10 Error; 11 Perfect pitch; 13 Alight; 15 Agreed; 17 Ten-gallon hat; 20 Extra; 21 Indulge; 22 Tear-drop; 23 Asps.
Down: 1 European; 2 Mayor; 4 Nights; 5 Opening words; 6 Earache; 7 Tory; 8 Rider Haggard; 12 Editress; 14 Inertia; 16 Albino; 18 Holds; 19 Left.
QUICK - Across: 1 Sobs; 3 Allusion; 9 Respond; 10 Admit; 11 Misadventure; 13 Lessen; 15 Willow; 17 Complication; 20 Upper; 21 Baleful; 22 Strident; 23 Arid.
Down: 1 Scramble; 2 Basis; 4 Ledger; 5 Unattainable; 6 Immoral; 7 Note; 8 Good-tempered; 12 Dwindled; 14 Stopper; 16 Ribbon; 18 Infer; 19 Fuss.

Quiz

1. Of which range is Mount Toubkal the highest mountain?
2. Which dynasty's family home is at Hyannis Port?
3. How old was Anna Paquin when she won an Oscar?
4. Which Thomas Mann novel is set in a Swiss sanatorium?
5. Which Italian monk was born Giovanni di Bernardone?
6. Which British animator has won four Oscars?
7. Of which band was Brian Jones an original member?
8. In British folklore, which fairy rules over men's dreams?
9. Whose palace of Nonsuch was excavated at Epson in 1959?
10. In which South American city did Lady Thatcher pass out during a speech?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 David Platt; 2 Horatio Nelson; 3 Basic English; 4 Antelope; 5 The rand; 6 North Korea; 7 Volkswagen; 8 Greta Garbo; 9 Bloomsbury Group; 10 Conkers.

Niner: GRANDIOSE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

92486 gives a seaside feature,
1567 gives a second seaside feature,
623183 gives a third seaside feature.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Isle be back for more tasty food

I WALKED in to the living room and took one look at my girlfriend. A teacher, back at work after the six-week break, she already had the look on her face that told me she felt like she'd never been away from the classroom.

We had already spent one evening that week, me helping her organise her stationery while she marked books and planned lessons. It was the easiest decision, made out of a mixture of laziness (on my part), tiredness (on hers).

"Right, I've booked a table. We're going to The Island House," I said. So 45 minutes later, along with my girlfriend's mum, we piled into the car. From the outside, The Island House, on the Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, looks warm and inviting. Early signs were good.

SEATING

Inside is clean and fairly comfy. Tables are well-spaced. You feel part of the experience without having a grizzly child staring you down from a foot away. There are two main seating areas around an old bar. This adds to the atmosphere as the noise pollution is broken down into more manageable chunks.Which brings us on to the food.

We had friendly staff serving us throughout, but if we were to be picky, the timing was slow. However, what I would say is that if you're a vegetarian steer clear. This is not a criticism, they just specialise in meat and fish dishes. Your options will be limited.

Already my girlfriend's mood had lifted as her eyes glided down the menu.We opted for the baked Camembert sharer served with a mixture of baby rustic breads and red onion jam to start. All three breads were lovely, ranging from a soft, croissant-like offering to the grainier farmhouse texture of another.

Piled high – minted lamb burger with fries

Chic look – inside is modern and contemporary

Her mum chose a selection of barbecue pork ribs that came with French toast. The toast was a little soggy, but the perfectly cooked ribs just slid off the bone.

But the mains are where the evening started to slip a little. Two of us were lucky. My girlfriend picked off the specials menu – a minted lamb burger packed with salad and two rashers of crisp bacon, accompanied by fat, skin-on chips, crispy onion rings, a pot of coleslaw and mustard mayonnaise.

I had an eight ounce sirloin steak which I slathered in a thick and creamy peppercorn sauce. Its sharp flavour had enough of a kick without overpowering all else. The steak itself was juicy and flavoursome, just one problem . . . it wasn't my steak. My girlfriend's mum had also selected the same steak, but without sauce. She had also requested it be cooked more well done than mine.

The chef had put the sauce on the wrong plate. Yet, judging how pink the inside of her cut was, it is very doubtful it would have satisfied me as I like mine cooked 'medium'. She pointed this out and they offered to cook it further for her, yet when it returned it was almost as pink as before. Giving up, she settled for her side portions but the manager for the night did agree to remove it from our bill.

Anyway on to desserts, I chose the raspberry bakewell with custard. The portion was a little small but it was gorgeously sweet. The other half had a tiramisu and declared it 'as good as she had tasted in Italy'. And, luckily, her mum also enjoyed her serving of chocolate fudge cake with marshmallows, meringue bites and a serving of cream.

So mission accomplished. Both with our cheering up skills and a (mostly) delightful meal. LEIGH SANDERS

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In more detail the through living room and dining area has a bay window and a French window. The kitchen has recently been re-fitted. It includes a breakfast bar and a built-in cooker, gas hob and a stainless steel cooker hood and part tiled walls.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

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MOTORING | YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

A giant leap forward for SsangYong's latest Rexton

South Korean 4x4 specialists SsangYong have relatively modest aspirations for sales of its all-new Rexton model in the UK, *writes John Griffiths.*

It may be realistic but in many ways it's a pity as the budget brand's latest offering is a giant leap forward on the previous Rexton, very capable and exuding a more upmarket feel. It's a full-size SUV packed with technology and serious off-road ability, plus it's a seven-seater and a towing limit of 3,500kgs – enough for a horsebox with two equines on board or some of the biggest caravans.

Yet with prices starting at £27,500, it undercuts some of the current crop of SUV-styled cars with two wheel drive only, and space for only five passengers and a lot less luggage. Plus the Rexton has a five year, unlimited mileage warranty behind it.

SsangYong has been making 4x4s for more than 60 years, so it's no surprise that it has that aspect well sorted. But until recently – and the advent of the smaller but widely acclaimed Tivoli – it has had the image of being somewhat utilitarian in its approach.

Inspired by that car's success in Europe, the new Rexton follows its example with a stylish, sculpted new body, yet one which retains a suitability muscular appearance. Inside the story continues, with a modern panel and centre console, big, comfortable seats and a range of higher quality, softer materials. It's packed with technology, too.

The first and second row of seats have generous levels of head and leg room for adults, and even the fold-down pair of seats in the rear shouldn't be ruled out as full-size accommodation. The layout means luggage room is exceptional: from 820 to 1,977 litres on five-seater versions and from 649 to 1,808 litres in the seven-seater (with rear seats folded flat).

In base level (EX) models the centre console is dominated by an eight-inch touch screen controlling the audio system, connectivity, the reversing camera view and the ability to link to your Apple and smartphone apps.

ELX and Ultimate models get a 9.2 inch HD screen which adds satnav and the 3D all-round monitoring system, with cameras which help you slip into tight parking places and, as was demonstrated on an off-road test, to avoid hazards like tree stumps and rocks.

The body, as well as being larger than the outgoing, is also stronger thanks to the use of high-strength steels, creating both a safer and better handling car. The safety systems include ABS, electronic stability programme, nine airbags, autonomous emergency braking, forward collision warning, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition, blind spot detection and rear crossing traffic alert.

The driver's instruments include a colour 'supervision' panel allowing you to see such information as current speed limit, satnav prompts, trip information and a range of safety system alerts. Other standard features include electric windows, tailgate, cruise control, a heated leather steering wheel, windscreen wiper defroster, electric folding and heated mirrors and air conditioning.

The £37,500 flagship 'Ultimate' model adds luxuries such as leather upholstery, heated seats front and rear, ventilated and electrically adjustable front seats, LED foglights and cornering lights to name but a few highlights.

The heart of the new Rexton is SsangYong's own 2.2 litre diesel engine, mated to a six-speed manual gearbox or a smooth seven-speed Mercedes auto. It has 181Ps of power and a hefty 420Nm of torque from just 1,400rpm which give it a 0 to 62mph sprint time of just under 12 seconds.

It actually feels livelier than that but the most remarkable thing about it (and the car as a whole) is its particularly low noise levels. In fact the Rexton has braggig rights over many of its rivals when it comes to what engineers call NVH (noise vibration and harshness) for its refined driving experience which complements the new, upgraded interior. It feels relaxed and comfortable, with a surprising smooth ride considering its a car designed to take the rough with the smooth.

A simple rotary dial allows you to choose 'two high' for driving the rear wheels through the standard gear ratios to 'four high' for slippery conditions and 'four low' for four wheel drive and low ratios when the going really gets tough. With the addition of hill descent control the Rexton's off-road performance is impressive. Up and down steep, wet grassy slopes and tackling a series of inclines in the deep mud of an old quarry were taken in its stride during testing. The official average fuel consumption figures are 34 to 36mpg, depending on model and transmission choice, with CO2 figures of between 204 and 218g/km.

Appearances are subjective, of course, but SsangYong has created a car for all reasons: stylish family transport with serious off-road and towing ability that few in this price range can emulate.

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VAUXHALL

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, October 19, 2017

Style changes and new technology

By John Griffiths

Ford's top-selling SUV, the Kuga, has had a makeover with some sharper styling and new technology.

This 2017 Kuga has a new look, an addition (and more economical) engine option, and Ford's new Sync 3 infotainent system with a wide range of vehicle and connectivity functions.

Prices start from £21,895 for the 1.5 Ecoboost turbocharged petrol engine in popular Zetec trim.

Fleet

The new engine is also of 1.5 litres capacity – this time a turbo diesel with 118bhp and 270Nm of torque. Priced from £27,995, it could prove popular with fleet buyers because of its potential 64.2mpg (official figure) and low CO2 emissions of 115g/km.

The test car was in mid-range ST-Line trim – with its sports-themed styling available on a Kuga for the first time – and was powered by the 148bhp, 2.0 litre diesel costing £28,745 in standard form. Only the front wheels were driven – all-wheel drive comes in combination with the more powerful 177bhp version of the same engine.

Painted in shadow black (a £545 extra 'premium' colour) the Kuga had the essentials which have made the SUV market the fastest growing sector: sturdy looks, and a high seating position for easy access and great looks. Inside it seats five in comfort and exudes a quality feel, with quality upholstery and a subtle mix of piano black and chrome trim.

The sports-theming continues with unique alloy wheels, sports seats, black roof rails and sports suspension. The suspension is optimised for dynamic control, making the car feel amongst the most agile of mid-sized SUVs, but it can also feel firm on some surfaces,

There is an eight-inch colour touchscreen

The test car's 2.0 litre, 148bhp turbo diesel hustles the car from a standstill to 62mph in a brisk 10.1 seconds, and based on official figures its average fuel consumption is 60.1mpg and its CO2 rating is 122mpg,

On the outside, this latest Kuga has revamped from end, grille and daytime running lights, with a reshaped tailgate and lamps, but it's in the cabin where the major upgrades have taken place.

More intuitive controls for the dual zone air conditioning and on the steering wheel, plus an electronic parking brake (which automatic releases as you start to drive). The button-operated system frees up more storage space in the centre console.

Other standard features include enhanced parking assist, with sensors front and rear, Ford's semi-autonomous 'self-parking' syste, is an option.

There's a new look for Ford's top-selling SUV

Electric windows, automatic headlights, rain-sensing wipers, adapative cruise control and speed limiter, power folding mirrors and Ford;s excellent Quickclear heated windscreen are also on the ST-Line's standard kit list.

Ford's intelligent protection system, with multi airbags and electronic systems including features such as stability control, an enhanced city brake system and lane departure warning, are also part of the package,

Atop the centre console is an eight-inch colour touchscreen, from which you can control various vehicle functions plus the satnav and audio systems.

It is also the heart of the Sync 3 system, with emergency assistance, USB connectivity, Bluetooth, audible text messaging and voice control. You can also link to, and mirror, your smartphone apps. For parents a handy feature might be the 'MyKey' system which allows them to, for example, programe a key for younger drivers to restrict top speed, or to reduce the maximum audio volume.

While SUV sales generally are rising much faster than any other type of car, the Kuga's unprecedented year on year 50 per cent increase is surely a sign that the revamped car is proving a hit with buyers.

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*If you trade in any Car or Commercial Vehicle that is registered up to and including 31st December 2009 you can receive between £2,000 and £4,950 (Inc. VAT) Scrappage saving off the Recommended On The Road Price of a New Ford Car. Offer available on All-New Fiesta (Excl. Style), B-MAX (Titanium/Titanium X Navigator only), Focus (Excl. ST & RS), C-MAX, Grand C-MAX and Kuga models only. New Ford cars must be contracted between 21st August and 31st December 2017 (the "Contract Date") and registered between 1st September and 31st December 2017. Scrappage vehicle must have been registered to the customer for at least 90 days before the customer's Contract Date. Customer savings of £2,000 to £4,950 (Inc. VAT) available dependent on model line. Offer not available in conjunction with any other customer saving programme. Available to retail customers only (Excl. Privilege and Ambassador).
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Award-winning van range expanded

Vauxhall has expanded its popular Corsavan range with the addition of a new top-of-the-range Limited Edition NAV model. Available to order now priced at £15,515 excluding VAT, the new variant offers some of the latest technology and stylish exterior design features.

The new Corsavan Limited Edition NAV model features unique exterior graphics, as well as black wing mirrors, 16-inch Black Alloy Wheels and a Carbon Flash grille bar. The stylish new black accents have been designed to complement the Corsavan's full range of exterior colours (excluding Royal Blue and Metallic Black).

Impressive

The new model also marks the introduction of the Persian Blue exterior colour, which is offered exclusively on the Limited Edition NAV.

As well as a new look exterior, the new model trim will add Navi 4.0 IntelliLink connectivity to an already impressive list of standard technology.

The updated system has a seven-inch colour touchscreen for easy navigation, with features including RDS with Traffic Programme, Eco Routing, DAB digital radio, and sat nav with European coverage.

The unit's smartphone integration is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and enables USB connection, Bluetooth connectivity and A2DP audio streaming.

"This stylish new Corsavan will appeal to operators who want a small car-derived van that stands out from the crowd," said Steve Bryant, Vauxhall's head of commercial vehicle brand.

"It's exceptionally well-equipped for its size, with features including Navi 4.0 IntelliLink connectivity with a seven-inch touchscreen."

Also recently announced are two new up-level Vauxhall Vivaro variants: the Tourer Elite and Combi Plus. Aimed at the business shuttle market, the Tourer Elite model will be available with a 1.6-litre CDTi BiTurbo engine with 125PS or 145PS, in either L1 or L2 body. And designed for customers after a more generously specified combi, the Combi Plus is more car-like, and less van-like than the standard Vivaro Combi.

With order books opening soon, both models will be built at Vauxhall's manufacturing plant in Luton, Bedfordshire.

"These new top-of-the-range Vivaros offer our customers even more comfort and flexibility," said Steve Bryant, Vauxhall's head of Commercial Vehicle Brand. The Tourer Elite is the perfect business shuttle and the Combi Plus is a more generously specified version of our popular Combi.

"Both models expand our portfolio and take us into new areas of the market."

The Tourer Elite is the perfect business shuttle

The new variant offers some of the latest technology

The new Corsavan Limited Edition NAV model features unique exterior graphics

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Probably best car Vauxhall makes

By Ian Donaldson

Vauxhall can't have heard about the demise of diesel; the new range topping Insignia Country Tourer comes with nothing else.

In fact, there isn't even a choice of engine until a second one arrives in a few weeks. And that's a diesel too.

Of course, Vauxhall knows diesels are going to be around for years and the overhyped stories that diesel is in its death throws are simply nonsense.

Which is just as well if you enjoy your driving, for the newcomer is probably the best car Vauxhall currently makes.

Ability

For a £1,355 premium over the normal Sport Tourer you gain four-wheel drive in the most expensive version, while all of them have a gently raised ride height (+20mm) and the macho black plastic cladding and silver skid plates that these days signifies a car with the ability to handle a slippery forest track.

The result is a big car, more than five metres long, that socks it to the likes of Audi's Allroad and the VW Passat Alltrack but for thousands less, starting the three car range at £25,635.

All of them share a 168bhp 2.0 litre turbo diesel engine and the ability to touch 135mph and hit 62mph in around nine seconds while managing better than 43mpg in the official test. A 210 horsepower diesel arrives shortly and automatic gears are already an option in a Country Tourer in front-drive form. Order the 4x4 (£27,235) and you'll have a car that is mostly front wheel drive most of the time but can switch power to the back wheels in an instant when slip is detected.

Beneath the new body cladding sits a car with enough space in the rear seat to act a stand-in limo and a boot that varies from generous (560 litres) with the seat back upright to vast (1,665 litres) with it folded down.

Lack of room will never be a problem here. Nor will the fittings and fixtures that come with a car Vauxhall perches at the pinnacle of the Insignia range.

As befits the poshest model there are a host of standard features, from a tailgate that opens with a well aimed kicking motion under the rear bumper to roof rails that can cope with loads up to 100kg.

You and your passengers should never feel a wintry chill in this car, with heated front seats as standard and outer rear seats as an option along with the option of a heated steering wheel for the driver and a heated windscreen to quickly banish early morning frost.

Standard kit also includes a fine satellite navigation, cruise control, leather faced seats, 19ins alloy wheels, panoramic camera and Vauxhall's OnStar system that gives you a wi-fi hotspot in the car and automatic crash response if the worst happens.

But this version of the Insignia goes well beyond its specification and turns into an enjoyable drive as soon as you head off down the road, a potent and easy-going diesel engine mating with a precise manual gearchange to provide a car with genuine punch.

On a properly surfaced road, even in pouring rain, you're unlikely ever to trigger the 4x4 system into instant action. But come a winter chill or a muddy lane in deepest February and you might be very glad that your Country Tourer will take care of things for you.

Standard kit includes a fine satellite navigation system

This car has plenty of space for passengers in the rear

This version of the Insignia goes well beyond its specification and turns into an enjoyable ride

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An XC40 will be as hassle-free as using your mobile phone

By James Parker

Volvo Cars is inventing a new model of car access with the launch of the new Volvo XC40 and the new 'Care by Volvo' subscription service. This will make having a car as transparent, easy and hassle free as having a phone: a national, ready-negotiated monthly fee, combined with getting a new car every 24 months.

After ordering online, Care by Volvo customers will be able to drive away in a new Volvo without having to worry about the traditional extras such as deposits, insurances, taxes, service fees and geographical or customer age-related differences.

Furthermore, Care by Volvo will, depending on regional availability, offer a range of digital concierge services, such as fuelling, cleaning, service pick-up and e-commerce delivery to the car.

XC40 drivers will also be the first Volvo customers who can share their car with friends and family with a new digital key technology. This sharing feature comes as standard for Care by Volvo customers.*

Håkan Samuelsson, president and chief executive of Volvo Cars, said: "With Care by Volvo, we introduce a new car access for the modern age. In a time where consumers are used to transparent flat fees for all sorts of services, the traditional process of buying and owning a car can be perceived as rather complicated. Care by Volvo changes all of that."

Care by Volvo is car access for the modern age

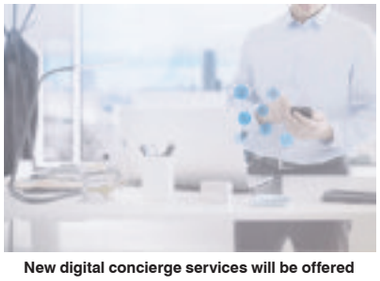
The new XC40 will be the first model on which Care by Volvo is offered. Other Volvo models will be included over time, as will new digital concierge services.

Care by Volvo is a concept that will develop and expand over time. The central focus is on offering customers convenient access to the sense of freedom a car is meant to deliver.

"Our aim with Care by Volvo is to provide our customers with a transparent, premium car user experience. With a fixed monthly payment, Volvo Cars provides a truly customer-focused alternative to the traditional purchase or leasing. Time is a luxury for our customers, and with this service we are able to free up time in their daily lives. This is simply making life easier for our customers," said Thomas Andersson, vice president Care by Volvo at Volvo Cars.

Earlier this month, Volvo announced the acquisition of the technology platform and key staff of Luxe, a US-based premium valet and concierge service company. The acquisition is another example of Volvo's ongoing development in the area of digital consumer experiences.

Care by Volvo is first available for buyers of the new Volvo XC40 in the following markets: Sweden, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Italy, Norway, Poland and the United States. Other markets will follow at a later stage.



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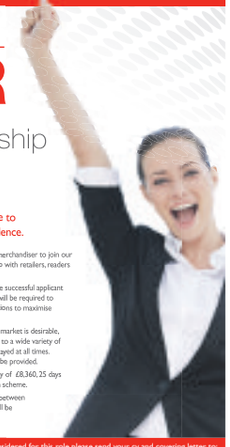

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10 Personals

Personal

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★★★
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Karen Samuels, Karen Evans and Andrea Marshall

Mary Harding with Hugh Porter and the Roger Walter Trophy as guests celebrate the 50th anniversary

Audrey Wilson and Hazel Smallman

Imogen Harley, Lynsey Kelly, Liz Lister and Holly Badderley

Jaiden Tutt, Adrain Dillon, Alfie Talbot and Matthew Whiddon

Athletes run up golden anniversary celebrations

SPORTING FEATURE

By Ian Harvey

HUNDREDS of athletes turned out to a glitzy birthday dinner celebrating 50 years of Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club.

Awards were handed out to this year's star performers as a toast was raised to the club's long running success.

Club president Mary Harding said it was great to see athletes young and old come together to celebrate the anniversary.

Olympic champion Denise Lewis MBE had been invited, but did not attend.

The Aldersley Road-based club has churned out international athletes over the years, with some going on to reach the top tier of athletics.

Mary said: "Tonight 480 people have come together from the old boys of 50 years ago with the athletes of today. There is a great combination of talent in this room tonight."

Club athletes, friends and family packed into WV1 Suite at Molineux Stadium where the birthday dinner was held.

Tables were lined out across the room, where people took their seats to listen to awards being handed out.

Brilliant

A party atmosphere filled the room as names were read out for athletes to walk up to the stage and collect their awards.

Around 50 awards were presented to athletes aged under 13 up to senior levels in track and field.

Mary added: "The event was absolutely brilliant, I couldn't have asked for it to go any better.

"Denise (Lewis) didn't come. It was a bit disappointing. She had the opportunity and we did expect her.

"It was a lovely event, all people came together to share their stories."

On the eve of the 50th birthday celebrations, the club staged the David Coleman Mile Races, named in honour of the popular former broadcaster who was president of the club during its heyday. It featured seven races in different categories.

The history of the club can be traced back to before the First World War in 1914, with a club based at Molineux with a track around the football pitch.

Sion Jones, Louise Jones, Eddie Starrs and Dawn Evans

Barry and Margaret Findlay

"It was a lovely event, all people came together to share their stories."

A decade later, Wolverhampton Athletics Club was formed and in 1943 they merged with Penn Harriers to form Wolverhampton Harriers. After using various grounds in Compton, at Tettenhall College and at Marsh Lane the club moved to Aldersley Stadium in 1956.

The municipal sports stadium was also home to Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club.

In 1967 Bilston was incorporated into Wolverhampton in a local government reorganisation and the two local clubs, Wolverhampton Harriers and Bilston Town Athletic Club, merged to form Wolverhampton and Bilston Club.

The club went on to dominate track and field and was once the leading athletics club in Great Britain, winning the National League Division One for men from 1975 to 1982, the Men's National Cup final in 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1980.

It also represented Britain in the European Clubs Cup from 1976-83 with the best finishing position of third. Several Olympic, Commonwealth and European medallists have represented the club, with famous athletes pulling on the Wolverhampton and Bilston best including Jim Auckett, Don Holliday, Verona Elder (nee Bernard), Maureen Tranter, Rosemary Stirling, Mike Bull, Phil Lewis, Ralph Banthorpe, Sonia Lannaman, Kathy Cook (nee Smallwood), Gary Cook and Tessa Sanderson.

In 1960 Peter Radford broke the world 200m record in 20.5s in an international held at Aldersley.

The club suffered some decline in the 1980s. A spokesman said one of the chief reasons for this was that it is not possible to have eight lanes around the track due to the cycle track.

"This has prevented the club from hosting some of the larger meetings. However in recent years the club has had a resurgence," the spokesman added.

Youngsters

Male athletes now compete in the Midland's Men's League, while the females take part in the Midland Women's League and the National League.

Club nights are on a Tuesday and Thursday evening with youngsters, generally under 10s, meeting from 5.30 to 6.30pm and all other athletes from 6.30-7.30pm.

With 40 coaches, all England Athletics qualified, there is a comprehensive programme for all youngsters including running, throwing, jumping, hurdling and walking.

Email Tracy Cresswell at Tracy@wolvesandbilstonac.co.uk for further membership details.

VIP treatment for former Darlo heroes

FORMER Darlaston players are being given the VIP treatment as the club embarks on the Birmingham County Vase this weekend.

Darlaston Town (1874) remain the only club to have won the competition in consecutive years, 1990/91 and 1991/92. They entertain Coventry Alliance side AEI Rugby on Saturday. Players and officials from that 90s era are invited back as VIP guests, with free admission, complimentary programme, pre-match, half-time and post-match hospitality.

Among those in attendance will be Mark Bates, Mick Rawlings, Paul Brown, Phil Wood, Paul Rideout and Ian Hughes. Also likely to be there is former Walsall and Aston Villa player and manager of the 1991/92 Darlaston cup winning side Jimmy McMorran.

The club is appealing to all former players and officials who played a significant role in the history of the club to attend and see the new-look team and venue at the Paycare Ground, Bentley Leisure Pavilion. Get in touch with chairman Neil Chambers on 07976 752698.

All Wyton night as Cradley talk of Town

BOSS Andy Wyton declared Cradley Town have been 'dormant' for too long, but they are now on the rise as they set about a five-year-plan to improve the club.

Wyton is spearheading the project that bosses have put together to improve facilities and promote youth football.

Cradley, formed in 1948, currently lie second in the West Midlands Premier. And Wyton, a former player at the club, said: "Cradley have been dormant for too many years but we want to make sure they come out of it."

Their long-term project was drawn up at the end of last season, when Wyton became Town's sole manager after former joint-boss Mark Jones mutually parted ways with the club.

Cradley Town are based at The Beeches stadium, located in a housing estate on Beeches View Avenue in Cradley. Plans are in the pipeline to develop a number of junior sides and this has been boosted by the development of a miniature pitch.

Look Hughes back for darts Grand Slam

BLACK Country thrower Jamie Hughes is will be back on home soil next month after qualifying for the Grand Slam of Darts.

Wolverhampton's Civic Hall will host the tournament from November 11-19, with world No.1 Michael van Gerwen, legend Phil Taylor and double world champions Adrian Lewis and Gary Anderson among the biggest names lining up.

And joining the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) heavyweights at the £450,000 event are eight players from the British Darts Organisation, including Tipton thrower Hughes.

Nicknamed Yozza, Hughes competes in a shirt of the Black Country flag and reached the second round on his debut last year. The 31-year-old has reached the semi-finals of the last two BDO World Championships, losing to the eventual winners – Scott Waites and Glen Durrant – on each occasion.

New sponsors have come on board to support the Grand Slam, with Austrian-based betting company Bwin replacing Thai brewers Singha Beer.

Sport

Golden days! Athletics club on track to celebrate 50th

Page 39

Glassboys' cup hopes shattered

Stourbridge 0 Macclesfield 5

STOURBRIDGE'S love affair with the FA Cup was cruelly shattered by National League leaders Macclesfield, who produced a display of precision finishing to sink the Glassboys without trace.

Stourbridge found themselves facing a mountain to climb after just 12 minutes as Macclesfield went 2-0 up. They took the lead on nine minutes when an Elliott Durrell corner was headed clear by Stourbridge defender Stuart Pierpoint, straight into the path of Danny Whitehead, who let fly with a first-time shot that flew into the net.

Stourbridge responded by storming back upfield and forced a corner, from which Macclesfield goalkeeper Shwan Jalal saved a Jack Duggan header and quickly hoofed the ball downfield where it eventually fell for Tyrone Marsh to fire a fabulous shot into the corner of the net.

The game was effectively over when Macclesfield netted a third goal on the stroke of half-time, Durrell dispatching a delightful shot on the turn. Macclesfield made it 4-0 on 69 minutes via the dangerous Koby Arthur and saved the best for last when Scott Burgess smacked home a spectacular volley on 80 minutes to leave Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Gould hopelessly beaten.

Stourbridge have signed Luke Shearer from No.9 Derby rivals Halesowen Town. The 23-year-old , who can play as a striker or on the wing, has also played for the likes of Hednesford Town and Sporting Khalsa.

Tromans bags a championship place at London Marathon

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club only had to travel down the road to Birmingham for race action at the weekend in the Birmingham International Marathon.

The club bagged one of it's best ever race positions in an event of this type as Helen Tromans recorded sixth place in the ladies race, second in her age group and 154th overall in a time of 3.11.29. Not quite as fast as her best but good enough to qualify for the Championship start at next year's London Marathon.

Despite a great performance she was unable to claim first back for the club status with Darran Bishop finishing in 134th place in a very respectable 3.09.50. Tom Aston was 417th in 3.28.35, Mark Gatenby finished in 3.28.45 for 422nd, Graham Wildgoose came home in 3.37.18 in 608th. Richard Tonks got back in 4.08.05 at 1691st, Karen Doy in 4.08.05 in 1692nd, Nick Ma in 4.13.35 in 1913th, Lisa Kendrick in 4.15.12 in 1958th and Malcolm Beddall was 2224th in 4.22.22 on his marathon debut.

Later in the half marathon Stuart Perkins finished in 49th place in 1.22.16.

Saddling up to kick off fundraising

High Riders The Riding for the Disabled group

A MARTIAL arts club has kickstarted its fundraising initiative for the year ahead.

Young Gloves Karate boats 350 students at 12 different schools, with classes held in Stourbridge, as well as in Stourport, Kidderminster and Bewdley.

Since forming 15 years ago, the club has helped to raise £56,000 for children's charities. This year's recipient is the High Riders Riding for the Disabled group in Stourport.

The fundraising efforts were launched with the annual awards ceremony, celebrating the achievement of students throughout the year both in competitions and dedication to martial arts in class.

Some £600 was raised on the night, kicking off the bid to match, or beat, last year's total of £6,720.

A charity competition takes place on November 26. To sponsor a trophy or donate a raffle prize, contact Lisa Homer on 07904 913425. All the money raised will go direct to the High Riders.

MAGNIFICENT SEVENTH WIN

Stourbridge RFC 32 Huddersfield RFC 17

STOURBRIDGE were out to make it seven out of seven in front of a large home crowd of 445.

A match against Huddersfield was never going to be an easy fixture but it was the hosts who started well after the visitors kicked off proceedings.

Stour dominated possession but were unable to capitalise and the first ten minutes was punctuated by a series of handling errors and penalties. The wind defeated Afeafe Haisila's fifth minute penalty attempt and it wasn't until the 13th minute that Stour made the scoreboard tick over with Ben Tibbetts going over and Haisila adding the extras.

Huddersfield hit back with Ben Morrill crashing over and Joel Hinchcliffe slotting the extras. The remainder of the half went scoreless.

Catalyst

Playing the second half with a strong wind on their backs, the hosts hit the ground running and on 42 minutes Haisila knocked over a penalty. This was the catalyst to a game changing period of 20 minutes.

It started after a massive clearance kick by Rod Petty but the counter-attack broke down and Huddersfield scrum ball was lost. Dan Rundle and Joe Heatley combined to attack through the middle and out right where a grateful Alex Hearle dotted down in the corner.

Stour's third try was scored by Haisila, who also converted. Heatley scored the bonus point try on 56 minutes, his eighth of the season.

An athletic touch down from Heatley followed, then Nigel Mukurati got his name on the scoresheet. At 32-7 and 20 minutes to go , Huddersfield replied with tries from Hinchcliffe, the simple conversion missed, and Brandon Conway.

Meanwhile, Lions returned to business at Stourton Park with an emphatic 24-10 victory over third placed Rugby Lions.

Stourbridge centre Joe Heatley crosses the line for a brilliant individual try in the victory over Huddersfield

Loan boosted Yeltz fall to the leaders

Altrincham 3 Halesowen Tn 0

HALESOWEN Town's mini unbeaten run came to an end against title favourites Altrincham, who went top of the Evo-Stik League Premier Division with this win.

Manager John Hill brought in Marcus Poscha from Ramsbottom and Jordan George Richard from Notts County on loan to replace James Spray and Luke Shearer, who have both left.

Yeltz started well, forcing a series of corners which were headed over or wide. Loanee, John McAtee had a shot on 28 minutes which lacked pace. Ten minutes later, he crossed for Mo Diop, who produced a clever step past a defender but shot wide.

Seconds after the break, Josh Hancock put Altrincham. On 54 minutes, John Johnston made it two from the spot.

Halesowen did try and get back in it, Daniel Udoh seeing his shot on 62 minutes parried by 'keeper Tony Thompson. Oliver Finney saw an effort saved before James Poole wrapped things up on 82 minutes.

Heathens put up a battle as Eagles nick it

IF this was to be Cradley's final league match, they went out with more of a bang than a whimper, despite going down to a 46-43 defeat.

Doubts over available dates at Monmore Green for 2018 have cast a shadow over the Heathens' future. But if the end is looming, what better way would there have been to sign off than by denying visitors Eastbourne a top-of-the-table place?

The Eagles needed victory to finish on the summit – and Cradley almost denied them. In a sport where the ultimate prizes are decided by play-offs, that may not count for too much – Eastbourne, indeed, are already halfway through the grand final and took a 12-point lead to Belle Vue last night (Wednesday) for the decider. But you could see it mattered to the Heathens, despite a windswept night and what looked a lower-than-average attendance.

After a nip-and-tuck night, it all came down to the last heat, with Cradley clinging to a single-point lead.

Skipper Tom Perry, returning from injury, swept to the front and guest Ben Hopwood worked his way into third. But Perry, still struggling with his arm, hit the shale on the pits turn.

Hopwood could not land a blow in the rerun as Eagles pair Jake Knight, who was unbeaten from his five starts, and Josh Bailey closed out the win.

Perry was distraught afterwards, saying: "A rubbish way to end the year."

William in running for future success

A BOARDER at Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge, is in the running to become an athlete of the future.

William Kay, aged 14, came fifth in a field of 95 runners in the English Schools Fell Running Championships held in Settle, North Yorkshire. The Year 10 pupil was competing against boys from his own year and the year above and his finishing time of 24:33 was just a couple of minutes behind the overall winner.

He followed it up with a win at the Dudley Schools Cross Country trials, which qualified him to represent Dudley in the West Midlands Cross Country trials at Sutton Park.

★★★

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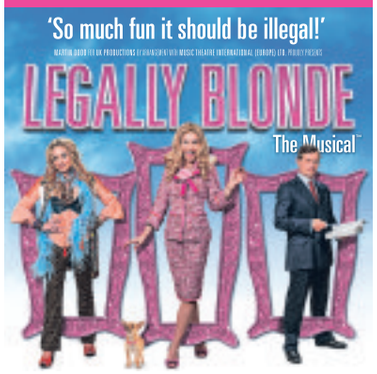
TUE 7 – SAT 11 NOVEMBER

LEGALLY BLONDE



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THE ADELE SONGBOOK

THU 16 NOVEMBER

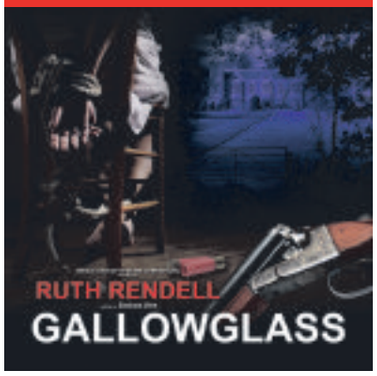
FIZZOG PRESENT
FREEZIN

TUE 21 – SAT 25 NOVEMBER

BILSTON OPERATIC COMPANY PRESENT
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

THU 18 – SAT 20 JANUARY

GALLOWGLASS



SUN 21 JANUARY

A VIENNESE STRAUSS GALA

TUE 23 – SAT 27 JANUARY

NATIONAL THEATRE
HEDDA GABLER

SUN 28 – TUE 30 JANUARY

THE SIBERIAN BALLET

THU 1 FEBRUARY

JIM DAVIDSON
ON THE ROAD AGAIN 2018

SAT 3 FEBRUARY

THE SENSATIONAL 60's EXPERIENCE

MON 26 FEB – SAT 3 MAR

HAIRSPRAY

WED 7 MARCH

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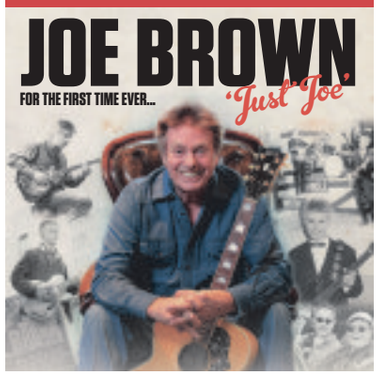
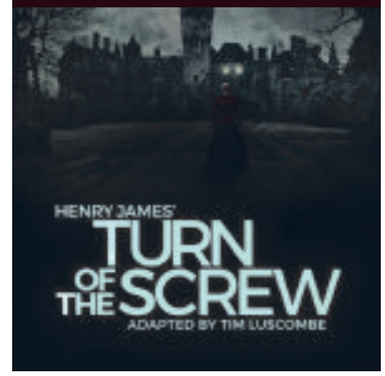
THU 8 MARCH
JOE BROWN



THU 20 MARCH
BRENDAN COLE – ALL NIGHT LONG

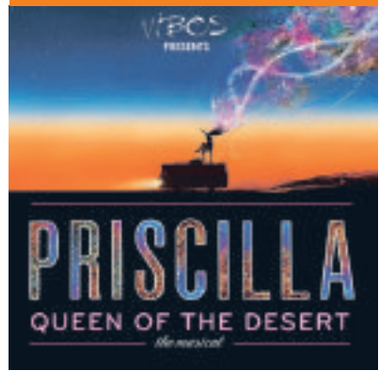
SAT 7 – SUN 8 APR
PEPPA PIG'S ADVENTURE

TUE 10 – SAT 14 APRIL
TURN OF THE SCREW



MON 16 – SAT 21 APRIL
BLOOD BROTHERS

TUE 24 – SAT 28 APRIL
WBOS PRESENT PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT



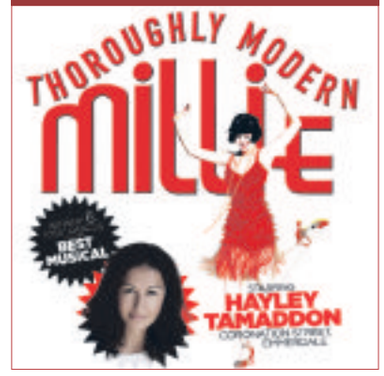
TUE 1 – SAT 5 MAY
DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE

TUE 8 – SAT 12 MAY
CRAZY FOR YOU

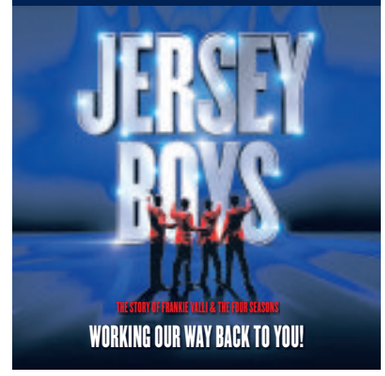
SUN 20 MAY
PASHA KOVALEV

TUE 12 – SAT 16 JUNE
BEAUTIFUL
THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

TUE 26 – SAT 30 JUNE
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE



TUE 28 AUG – SAT 8 SEPT
JERSEY BOYS



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